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INSIDE
 EIGHT PAGES
 FROM SUNDAY'S
The New York Times
 WEEKLY REVIEW

Soldier stabbed in Afula, assailant caught
 DAVID RUDGE
 and news agencies

A TERRORIST stabbed a soldier in the back in Afula yesterday evening, and was then caught by an off-duty policeman.

The soldier, Eilahu Azulai, of Afula, was taken in the car of a passerby to Ha'emek Hospital. He was lightly to moderately wounded. Police said a 17-year-old from Yamoun, near Jenin, approached Azulai from behind and stabbed him in the back. The terrorist then tried to flee.

Off-duty policeman Meir Cohen happened to be in the area with his family and saw the attack. He chased the attacker, pounced on him, and pinned him to the ground. He also managed to remove the knife from the suspect's hand.

The suspect was taken to the nearby police station for questioning, and admitted stabbing the soldier. In his initial statement, he claimed he had argued with his father and had carried out the attack so he would be put in jail. He is to be brought before the Tiberias Magistrate's Court for a remand hearing today.

In another incident yesterday, a Palestinian teenager was shot in the back near Nahlus under unclear circumstances.

Yasser Snobar, 16, was in Rafidiyeh Hospital in Nahlus in fair condition with a gunshot wound in his back and stomach, a hospital worker said.

Palestinian and Israeli police said they were investigating the reports.

"According to the preliminary report that we have, a settler opened fire on a group of students and one student was injured," said Palestinian Police Col. Fahed Biyad.

The army first said that an Israeli driver had opened fire, wounding some students, after stones were thrown at his car, but then retracted its statement.

The Prime Minister's Office also said there was no basis to the rumor that a settler had fired at students.

Herb Keinson adds:

A guard at a Jewish-run quarry near Tarkumia in the Hebron Hills was lightly injured yesterday when two Palestinian assailants tried to take his gun. Settlement officials said.



Hundreds of Palestinians yesterday carry the bodies of two Islamic Jihad members killed by PA policemen on Saturday. The mourners called for revenge against Israel and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. Story, Page 2.

Christopher arrives amid fading peace prospects

US doubtful Assad will agree to photo-opportunity with Peres

DAVID MAKOVSKY

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived here last night in yet another attempt to advance peace with Syria, though chances for a breakthrough are fading given the prospects of early elections here, diplomatic sources said.

Barring an unforeseen development from Damascus this week that may give fresh impetus to the talks, there are indications that Christopher realizes the Syrian-Israeli talks will be on a low burner until after the elections are over, diplomatic sources in Jerusalem said.

"It is fair to say that if there are early elections in Israel, peace talks will continue, but the tough decisions on issues such as security arrangements will only be made after the elections are over," an American diplomatic source said.

Both Israel and Syria seem to prefer that talks continue so as to preserve a modicum of momentum.

"We still have no signs that the Syrians are willing to compromise on a few issues that are critical to us and if they don't show any compromise there won't be any peace," said

Minister Yossi Beilin.

"There is room for working groups to start more extensive talks on all issues on the agenda, but I don't think there is reason to expect a breakthrough," Beilin told Israel Radio.

While the US may not be pleased by the prospect of early elections, Christopher is not seeking to press Prime Minister Shimon Peres on the matter. In a phone call between the two last week, sources said, Christopher said the calling of early elections is an internal Israeli affair.

Yet, it is important to Christopher that he not be blamed by Israeli officials for failing to deliver an early breakthrough this week, and therefore he perceived as the immediate trigger for early elections, the American diplomatic source said. Christopher is slated to leave the region on Thursday, and Peres said he would make his announcement about early elections by next week.

State-run Radio Damascus yesterday expressed disappointment with the progress in Maryland. Syrian radio attacked Foreign Minister Ehud Barak as being uninterested in doing what is needed for peace. Barak said recently that he would not give a drop of the water on the Golan to Syria.

American diplomatic sources were doubtful that Assad would agree to a "photo-op" with Peres before the elections, which might bolster Peres domestically. They said Assad will continue to link any meeting with Peres to a prior commitment to fully withdraw from the Golan.

Before meeting Peres this afternoon, Christopher will participate in a Yad Vassem ceremony that commemorates an American Righteous Among the Nations, Darian Fry. Christopher will also meet separately today with President Ezer Weizman, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, and Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu.

The secretary of state leaves for Damascus tomorrow morning and is expected back the next day.

The new American gamble

COMMENT
 DAVID MAKOVSKY

SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher now seems to be betting that early elections will not mean that after 17 trips to the Middle East, he is left holding the bag on peace talks with Syria.

It is now expected that Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who holds a 16 point lead over Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, will emerge strengthened from the elections and still have time to clinch a deal with Syria before the US elections in November.

But even Minister Yossi Beilin is not sure that Israel can meet that timetable - assuming Peres wins the election.

Beilin, who opposes early elections because of the deleterious effect they could have on the negotiations, has said that if early elections are held, it could take a year from the time talks are resumed to arrive at a deal.

This could be too late for Christopher, who has let it be known that he will retire regard-

less of whether President Bill Clinton is victorious.

However disappointed Christopher may be, there is no indication that he pressed Peres hard to change his mind, perhaps by reminding him of his oft-quoted remark that it is "more important to win the peace than to win elections."

Israeli leaders are now telling Christopher the opposite: Without an early election win, peace and Peres's political future would be at risk. Brokering a Golan deal could at best be marginally helpful to Clinton in November, but with terms of a deal uncertain, Peres seems to believe that such an accord could be deadly to his own political prospects.

Peres is seeking to defuse this line of Likud attack by declaring he will hold a referendum on a Golan withdrawal even after the elec-

tion.

It seems that Israel sold the early elections idea to the US as a low-risk proposition. After all, Peres is ahead in the polls; Hamas has not blown up buses recently; and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has committed himself to amending the Palestinian Covenant before the date talked about for the elections.

Yet in politics, anything can happen. Peres has run four times before, and despite having leads in the past, never turned them into an unambiguous victory. The Likud has said that, if elected, it will not withdraw from the Golan. So one cannot preclude the possibility that the peace talks will not return to where they are today.

Ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich once wrote about missed opportunities with Damascus soon after the establishment of Israel. The US seems to be betting that Peres will win in May, and the current talks will yield more than a sequel with the same name.

Labor court prevents Magen David Adom from taking action against blood bank director

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Tel Aviv Labor Court last night issued a temporary restraining order barring any change in status for Magen David Adom blood services director Dr. Amnon Ben-David. The case will be discussed with both sides present at a future date.

The order, sought by Ben-David's lawyers Uzi Azmon and Dan Ahiezer, cut short discussions by MDA's board of directors of proposed sanctions against Ben-David, who four years ago approved his predecessor's decision not to use most blood donated by Ethiopian immigrants or to inform them that their blood was likely to be destroyed.

Azmon said that dismissing or suspending an employee for reasons given by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh - who last week asked MDA director-general Amos Luria to suspend Ben-David - was "without precedent." Before the court order was issued, Luria appeared before the 11-

member board in Tel Aviv and asked that it approve putting Ben-David on a forced vacation until the Navon Commission reaches its conclusions on the blood-donor affair, disclosed by *Ma'ariv* 10 days ago.

Sneh, reacting to the news of restraining order, said he would wait for the court to reach its final decision. If it decides to permanently bar any sanctions against Ben-David, Sneh said, he would honor this decision.

The Israel Medical Association and the Israel Hematology Society yesterday voiced their full support for Ben-David, saying his decision not to use most blood donated by Ethiopian immigrants - because their risk of HIV was 50 times that of the general population and because lab tests could not discover all carriers - was correct. His decision not to inform immigrant donors that their blood

would not be used (except for rare types, which were frozen and the donors later retested) was aimed at protecting the Ethiopian immigrant community from stigmatization by the general public, they said in a statement.

As the 11-member MDA board deliberated, dozens of blood services workers demonstrated in the building in support of Ben-David, and eight Ethiopian immigrants protested below to demand Ben-David's dismissal. The board asked MDA legal adviser Ami Osnat to prepare the organization's response to the court order and ask for the go-ahead to send Ben-David on forced vacation. The board also issued a statement rejecting claims that MDA had acted in a "racist" or "antisemitic" way.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres last night officially appointed former president Yitzhak Navon as

head of the commission of inquiry into the Ethiopian blood donations affair.

Evelyn Gordon adds: The Unified Ethiopian Immigrants Organization yesterday withdrew its petition to the High Court of Justice against Magen David Adom's refusal to use blood donations from Ethiopian immigrants.

The court was supposed to have heard the case tomorrow.

In a letter to the court, the group said its decision was the result of a meeting with President Ezer Weizman, at which it was agreed to stop the battle over the blood donations for the time being in order to calm the situation; of the establishment... of a committee to investigate the claims of the Ethiopian immigrants; and of the order given [MDA] by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh... to freeze blood donations from donors of Ethiopian origin until the committee has finished its work.

Likud, Tsomet to form single election bloc

Eitan drops bid for premiership in exchange for No. 2 slot

SARAH HONIG

THE Likud and Tsomet have reached agreement on establishing a unified electoral bloc for the next elections. The agreement is to be initiated this week.

Though neither party would officially confirm the reports, sources said the deal has been struck and that Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan will not run for prime minister.

The parties will not merge, but will be fielding a single Knesset ticket and will both back Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu for premier. After the elections, the parties will have the option of remaining together in a united parliamentary bloc or going their separate ways and setting up their own Knesset factions.

The agreement between the parties resulted chiefly from Likud efforts to end Eitan's candidacy, which Netanyahu viewed as particularly detrimental to his chances against Shimon Peres.

The agreement was hammered out in a series of near-quiet meetings by Likud director-general Avigdor Lieberman and Tsomet director-general Doron Shmueli. After it is initiated, the agreement must be ratified by the central committees of both parties.

Under the deal, Eitan will get the second spot on the joint ticket and Tsomet will get eight slots in the first 40.

The key to the allocation of slots is the number of seats won in 1992 by the Likud and Tsomet. The Likud won 32 Knesset seats, and Tsomet started the present term with eight. It was agreed to overlook the defection from Tsomet of Gonen Segev, Alex Goldfarb, and Esther Salmovitz, and David Levy's and David Magen's leaving the Likud.

Besides removing Eitan from the prime ministerial race, the agreement is geared to giving the national camp a morale boost. Its actual electoral value is hard to gauge.

Tsomet had in past campaigns nibbled into Labor's support, and it is not clear whether its potential electorate would fully follow it into a partnership with the Likud, and whether those with a Labor past would vote for a Likud-led list.

News of the deal may also cause internal problems in the Likud, where the primary race for safe slots on the Knesset list is very crowded.

At this point, no one knows where the Tsomet candidates will be placed and how far down on the list the Tsomet newcomers would push the very hard-pressed Likud contestants.

Tsomet had already finished putting its own list of candidates together, the first party to do so.

PM to announce early elections next week

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres will announce his decision on early elections by next week, even though the consensus in Labor is that the decision has already been made.

But Peres yesterday told Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal and Labor Knesset whip Ra'anan Cohen that he prefers the line that he has not yet decided. Presumably this is done in order to deny a tie between the decision and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit.

Labor sources say Peres will meet with Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu next week to give him the official word, to ask for Likud cooperation in passing legislation to dissolve the Knesset, and to find a mutually agreeable election date. Netanyahu yesterday said his party does not oppose rescheduling the elections, but that he is awaiting word from Labor.

According to Cohen, the dates now contemplated for the elections are May 14, May 21, or May 28 - all Tuesdays.

Peres told Shahal that "announcing early elections now would be too early and doing so after mid-February will be too late."

Cohen is to confer with his Likud counterpart MK Moshe

Katsav today to begin the traditional haggling about an election date.

Meanwhile, practical preparations for early elections were underway in Labor headquarters. These include advancing the party's Knesset primaries once again. They were already moved back from June to April 17, and the talk now is about moving them to March 26, the day the Likud had long ago slated for its primaries.

Party secretary-general Nissim Zvili has ordered generous overtime allotments to ensure that the bureaucratic groundwork for the primaries is completed by an earlier than envisioned target date. Early elections fever, however, extends beyond the primaries. There is already hectic activity to prepare the infrastructure for the campaign itself.

Shahal is seen as managing Peres's campaign for prime minister, while Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer is likely to be put in charge of the Knesset campaign. Labor sources claim that Interior Minister Haim Ramoo will be heading the party's "information drive."

"Everything is all ready for the race. All that is needed now is the firing of the starting pistol," Cohen said last night.

'Southern Rapist' gets 21 years for attacking 4 women

A BEERSHEBA man dubbed the "Southern Rapist," was sentenced to 21 years' imprisonment by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday for raping three women who took rides with him and trying to rape a fourth.

Meir Asour, 26, acquired a gun illegally and in December 1993, at the Negev junction, gave a ride to a woman who had been waiting for a bus to take her to the Youth Village near Sderot. On the way, he stopped the car and raped the woman at gunpoint.

In February 1994, Asour gave a ride to a woman soldier who was waiting at the Nahshon-Rebovot junction. He drove into a wooded area and raped her in the same manner. About 10 days later, he gave ride to a 25-year-old woman who wanted to go to Hatzor. He raped her too, and asked her to have sex again; when she refused, he raped her again. He then took her home.

Two days later, he gave a ride to a 19-year-old woman soldier who was waiting at the Nahshon junction for a ride to Beit Shmesh. Asour also drove her into a secluded area and tried to rape her at gunpoint. However, the soldier pushed open the door and managed to escape.

A passing driver saw the soldier fleeing and tried to block the road so the driver took the soldier to the police station. (Idm)

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Several injured Chinese construction workers are taken into custody yesterday in a police patrol car. Police had forcefully broken up a demonstration by some 200 workers who were protesting against their employers' failure to pay them. (Gideon Markovitz/PPA)

Cabinet gives go-ahead for Trans-Israel Highway

Sarid, Tzur and Beilin overruled

THE government yesterday decided to go ahead with plans to build the Trans-Israel Highway, over the objections of Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tzur, and Minister Yossi Beilin.

The move was welcomed by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who said the three had put forward a "surprising and strange" proposal to stop the building of the road by creating a team which would examine the options for reducing demand for the highway.

Sarid, Tzur, and Beilin argued that no serious consideration had been given to other alternatives to the highway. The road, they said, would cause great damage to agricultural areas and nature reserves. In a written proposal in the cabinet, they

said the highway does not present a long-term solution to the traffic problem. They also suggested giving higher salaries to employees instead of car allowances, which only gives people impetus to buy cars.

Shohat said the highway is only one of the transportation infrastructures which had to be created to keep the country from turning into one big traffic jam. Also needed are improved roads, he said.

At the same time, Shohat said, it is necessary to find a solution to the problem of mass transit in Tel Aviv and other key locations, such as Haifa and Jerusalem.

Before the government decision, Otniel Schneller, head of the Highway Safety Administra-

tion, and the Manufacturers Association added their voices in favor of the highway.

Schneller said the environmentalists had been using the issue of road safety cynically in their opposition to the thoroughfare, since all studies show that the greater the congestion, the greater the chances of being involved in an accident.

Schneller said he supported the building of the highway, but at the same time believed it should have a special traffic police unit which would enforce regulations and "create new driving habits."

The Manufacturers Association had appealed to Trade and Industry Minister Micha Harish to push forward the building of the highway, to facilitate the transport of goods throughout the country.

Police concede unnecessary force was used to disperse demo of Chinese workers

UNNECESSARY force was used to break up yesterday's demonstration by some 200 Chinese construction workers in Tel Aviv, senior sources in the Hayarkon Police District conceded yesterday.

The workers were protesting against their employers' failure to pay them on time or to fulfill an agreement to send part of their salaries to their families in China.

The workers had gathered at the Dolphinarium and began

marching to the Chinese Embassy in North Tel Aviv.

Near the Jerusalem Beach, the police blocked their path, after the marchers caused huge traffic jams.

Eyewitnesses reported that marchers were knocked to the ground and beaten.

Police conceded that several policemen, including two officers, were also injured, and that one policeman remains hospitalized.

One of the demonstrators showed a reporter that he had had several teeth knocked out, and the police admitted that a policeman had hit a protester in the face, breaking several of his teeth.

Seven Chinese were arrested for assaulting police officers, disturbing the peace, and demonstrating illegally.

All seven were released after the Chinese Embassy intervened. The Israeli employers were

called and organized buses took the workers to their construction sites.

An investigation revealed that many of the workers were justified in their complaints against their employers, and that others, who had been paid on time, demonstrated in solidarity with their countrymen.

The employers promised the police and the Chinese Embassy they would rectify matters immediately. (Iim)

Bar-Ilan to mete out punishment for Amir photo brochure blunder

BAR-ILAN University promised yesterday to punish whoever was responsible for including a dozen photos of Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, in a US fundraising brochure dedicated to Rabin's memory.

Amir had been a law student at the university.

The American Friends of Bar-Ilan University issued a letter of apology for the incident, saying it took full responsibility for the blunder.

University President Moshe Kaveh said he had called the manager of the American fundraising apparatus, Yehuda Halevy, to Israel for "discussions," and ordered all organizations representing Bar-Ilan abroad to submit publications for advance approval.

Halevy said yesterday, upon arrival in Israel, that his organization was fully responsible for the error. Kaveh and Halevy met last night with the board of the university.

News agencies

Following the meeting, it was decided to summon the president and vice-president of the American Friends of Bar-Ilan, Jacob Stearn-Lebell and Melvin Steio respectively, to Israel today for consultations.

"Despite the fact that the appearance of the Amir photos in the journal was purely coincidental, I am determined to make sure this will never happen again," Kaveh said.

Kaveh said "the responsible officials in the US will be held accountable," but gave no specifics.

The English-language brochure was distributed at a dinner last month that was also dedicated to Rabin's memory.

Kaveh called the inclusion of Amir's photograph "an egregious error of oversight, not an act of intent or malice." Kaveh said he was "embarrassed and angry" by the incident.

University officials said most of

the brochure was printed in October for a dinner scheduled for November. After the assassination, they said, the dinner was postponed to January and new pages commemorating Rabin were added to the booklet.

Nobody noticed the existing pages featured Amir, they said.

Despite the university's insistence that the publication of the pictures was a mistake, Knesset Education Committee chairman Dalia Itzik threatened to take action against the institution.

Itzik's spokesman, Erez Friedman, said she was calling a committee meeting tomorrow to discuss the matter.

Meanwhile, she said she wants the government to stop all funding to the university.

The spokesman said the government provides 70 percent of the university's budget. "The heads of Bar-Ilan will have to give clear answers why the booklet was not destroyed and discarded," Friedman quoted Itzik as saying.

Families of detainees must be informed

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday ordered the state to ensure that the families and attorneys of security prisoners are notified immediately of the fact that an arrest has occurred, where the prisoner is being held, and whether the attorney may meet with his client.

The court was hearing a petition filed by attorney Lea Tsemel on behalf of Janna and Sallah Sheriff, who are suspected of assisting Hamas in general and a specific terrorist to whom both are related, Janna, a Hebrew school principal, was arrested on January 25, while Sallah, a driving teacher from Elzariya, was arrested on January 23.

Tsemel filed the petition last Thursday because she had been unable to meet with either, and withdrew it at yesterday's hearing after the state said she could meet with Sallah, and that a legal order had been issued forbidding her to see Janna until February 8.

However, Justices Gavriel Bach, Eliahu Mazza, and Ya'akov Kedmi, appeared shocked by Tsemel's description of events.

Tsemel noted that neither she nor the family had been informed of where Sallah was being held. A police list showed him to be at the Etzion lock-up, but the police there said they had never heard of him. They directed Tsemel to the Ma'aleh Adumim police station, which also had never heard of Sallah, and the Jerusalem police denied all knowledge of him. Tsemel's office began a telephone search of the country's lock-ups, and was finally told, on January 31, that the prisoner was in fact in Etzion, but under the authority of the General Security Service rather than the police. The police officer who told her this said he had no idea whether she could visit her client or not.

The state, in its response to the petition, said even this was not true: Sallah was in fact in Jerusalem's Russian Compound lock-up.

"There have already been several cases like this," Bach said, appalled.

Under Bach's pressure, government attorney Michael Blass agreed that the state would look for ways to ensure that this does not happen in the future. To underscore the matter, Bach detailed what he expected from the state in his decision: That "families and attorneys are informed immediately" of the arrest and told where the prisoner is being held, whether the attorney can meet with the prisoner, and, if not, why not.

Village battles 8-year 'temporary' injunction

EVELYN GORDON

THE Beit Jann Local Council yesterday asked the High Court of Justice to cancel two interim injunctions forbidding villagers to use a certain agricultural road, on the grounds the injunctions have already been in force for more than eight years.

Alternatively, the Druze village in the Galilee asked the court to order the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) to give a financial guarantee that if it loses the case of which the injunctions are part, it will cover the damages which the injunctions have caused the villagers.

The case involves a short road connecting the village to the residents' olive groves. The SPNI filed a petition against this road in 1987, saying it was illegal because it runs through the country's largest nature reserve, Mount Meron. The village claimed the

land was never part of the reserve. In response to the petition, however, the court issued an interim injunction forbidding the villagers to use the road, in question until the final ruling on the case. It issued a similar injunction in response to a further petition on the same issue the following year.

Since then, there have been numerous discussions among the parties, tentative agreements, hearings, and additional petitions, but the case is still pending. In the meantime, according to the petitioners, the injunctions have caused the villagers some NIS 17 million worth of damages as of October, 1995, and this sum increases by about NIS 210,000 every month, they said.

The petition argued that an interim injunction is by nature meant to be a temporary measure. However, it said, an injunction that has lasted eight years cannot be considered temporary. These injunctions have given the SPNI what it wanted on a more or less permanent basis, without the need to actually win its case in court, the petition said, and this is unfair to the villagers.

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Bosnia demands disarming of Serb police

THE Bosnian government, angered by the continuing presence of Serb police in Sarajevo suburbs now formally under its control, demanded yesterday that they be disarmed.

A government statement apparently bowed to the insistence of NATO and international mediators that the police should stay an extra 45 days to reassure nervous Serbs.

But the new demand indicated the government was still angry about the matter, which cast a deep shadow over the Dayton peace agreement stipulating that five Serb-held Sarajevo suburbs should come under the control of the Muslim-Croat Bosnian federation from Saturday midnight.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was unable to patch up the row during a brief visit to Sarajevo yesterday, flew to Belgrade with a somber message for Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

US officials traveling with him told reporters the United States would not approve international aid, a permanent end to sanctions or full diplomatic recognition of Belgrade until Bosnian Serbs indicted as

KURT SCHORK
SARAJEVO

war criminals were extradited.

The UN's International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague has indicted 52 people, all but seven of them Serbs, charged with atrocities during the nearly four-year war. They include Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic and army commander General Ratko Mladic.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters Christopher was raising the issue "forcefully" with Milosevic.

A senior Bosnian Serb official on Saturday dismissed the idea that Karadzic should step down before elections to be held by next September, as laid down in the Dayton accord.

Christopher's two-day visit to former Yugoslavia was marred by the death of the first U.S. peacekeeping soldier in Bosnia.

Donald Allen Dugan, 38, who was married with two children, apparently stepped on a mine on Saturday in northern Bosnia while manning an isolated checkpoint, military officials said.

His body was flown out from the main US base at Tuzla yesterday after a brief military ceremony on the tarmac. (Reuters)



Soldiers of the 325th Cavalry carry the casket of Sgt. Donald Allen Dugan to an awaiting aircraft at Tuzla Airbase in Bosnia yesterday. (AP)

Perry: NATO to expand despite Russian concern

US Defense Secretary William Perry

MICHAEL SHIELDS
MUNICH

tributes to the security of Russia as

insisted yesterday that NATO would press ahead with plans to admit new members from eastern Europe despite Russian objections.

"NATO enlargement is inevitable and if NATO enlargement is the carrot encouraging reforms, then we cannot keep that carrot continually out of reach," he told the annual Wehrkunde meeting of defense experts in Munich.

Perry's comments came a day after Russian Deputy Defense Minister Andrei Kokoshin warned that NATO's embrace of eastern Europe could spark a backlash against reforms in his country by sharpening Moscow's suspicions of the alliance's intentions.

Kokoshin took a relaxed approach to Perry's comments, saying the exchange in Munich was constructive and useful even though he could not agree NATO expansion was unavoidable.

"That is one of the points on which we disagree," he told reporters with a laugh. "But at the same time this disagreement is not blocking our cooperation in many other areas."

Perry contended that NATO membership for emerging democracies in eastern Europe could actually boost Moscow's security in the post-Cold War era.

He said he had told Russian officials that a vibrant, healthy NATO working together with Russia would keep the United States involved in European security, keep Germany bound into the security architecture and avoid isolating Moscow.

"NATO, far from being a threat to Russia, actually con-

tributes to the security of Russia as well as the security of its own members," he said, but added: "When I reached that conclusion, most of the Russians I talked to fell off the cliff."

At last year's Wehrkunde conference, Perry suggested forging a formal strategic partnership between NATO and Russia that has yet to bear fruit.

But he said he was encouraged by Russian troops' participation in the NATO-led Implementation Force helping to safeguard the peace accord in Bosnia and held it out as a model for other cooperation ventures.

"We want Russia inside the circle working with us, not outside the circle throwing rocks at us."

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana agreed.

"Frankly speaking, we have lost time over the past year in establishing a political framework for a workable, long-term relationship with Russia," he said.

"Some have suggested that perhaps we should expect less from this relationship or even that we should choose between NATO's future enlargement and its partnership with Russia. I reject this attitude."

The 16-member western alliance has made clear it will open its doors to emerging democracies in eastern Europe that want to join, but it has not said which countries it will admit or when.

Moscow has stressed the importance of building up a pan-European security system in which NATO could play an important but subordinate role. (Reuters)

Ex-US Senator: IRA in danger of splitting

LONDON (AP) - As Northern Ireland's political stalemate continues, there is a danger that some IRA members will return to violence, breaking a 17-month cease-fire, former US Senator George Mitchell warned yesterday.

The IRA's allies dismissed talk of a split within its ranks.

Police have blamed the IRA for killing seven criminal suspects within its

Catholic power bases despite the cease-fire. On Saturday, the IRA denied it was behind a gun attack on the home of a policeman - the first attack on security forces since the group stopped its armed campaign against British rule.

In a BBC TV interview with David Frost, Mitchell - who consulted widely during his group's inquiry - said he believes there "is a danger of a fracture within" the IRA.

"It seems clear that not all on the republican side favor the cease-fire and the potential for some elements to take direct and violent action does remain," Mitchell said. Martin McGuinness, deputy leader of the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party, said he was "surprised" by Mitchell's comments. "I don't believe there is any danger of a split within the IRA," he said.

China quake toll may hit 300

BEIJING (Reuters) - The deadliest earthquake to hit China in eight years has killed 340 people, injured 14,000 and left hundreds of thousands of homeless huddled in freezing weather and jolted by aftershocks, officials said yesterday.

The Red Cross Society of China appealed for international aid, following Saturday's quake in the scenic Lijiang region, 2,000

km southwest of Beijing.

The death toll climbed to 240 late yesterday as rescue teams fanned out into worst-hit villages in search of survivors amid fears the final death toll could rise over 300, the official said.

"Rescue teams expect to find only seriously injured people and the bodies of the dead now," the official said.

Guinea president takes over mutinous army

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP) - The Guinean president took over as defense minister yesterday in an effort to calm rioting soldiers who killed at least 20 people over the weekend.

State radio in the West African country said President Lansana Conte made the announcement

while meeting with army representatives at a military barracks yesterday morning.

"With effect from today, the head of state, Gen. Lansana Conte, has assumed the duties of defense minister, in addition to his functions as president," the statement said.

About 2,000 of Guinea's soldiers

went on the rampage in the capital on Friday, demanding back pay and the firing of the defense minister, whom they accused of blocking pay raises and promotions.

Conte responded Friday by firing the defense minister. But soldiers continued to attack the presidential palace with cannon and gunfire

throughout the night - setting it on fire and forcing Conte to flee into a bunker.

The soldiers ended their mutiny on Saturday after Conte agreed to meet with them. Radio France International reported at least 20 people were dead and 70 injured.

Britain raps Kohl's EU proposals

LONDON (Reuters) - British newspapers and politicians united yesterday to condemn German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for suggesting the alternative to closer European Union integration could be war in the 21st century.

Tristan Garel-Jones, a former British minister for Europe, said Kohl appeared to believe Germany could not be trusted to keep the international peace. "The message is clear: you must all do what we say or there will be war," he said in an article published in the *Sunday Telegraph*.

"Helmut Kohl seems to be using the specter of past wars as nothing but a chilling aid to modern political ambitions," the *Mail on Sunday* newspaper, a close supporter of Britain's Conservative government, said in an editorial.

In a speech in Brussels on Friday, Kohl said the European Union risked taking a huge step backwards unless there was greater harmony.

Echoing words he has used before, but which on this occasion struck a raw nerve in London, he said European integration was "in reality a question of war and peace in the 21st century."

Kohl repeated these sentiments in a speech in Munich on Saturday, saying: "The question of war or peace in the 21st century really hinges on the progress of European integration."

There is increasing concern in British government circles that Germany and France might do a deal to ease the introduction of a single European currency in 1999.

France looks unlikely to be able to meet strict economic criteria

which the EU's Maastricht Treaty lays down for countries which want to join, and London fears that the two countries will do a deal to lower the hurdles.

But the *Sunday Times* said in an editorial: "If Germany cannot be relied upon to act responsibly in the Europe of nation states, its good behavior will hardly be guaranteed by camouflaging its power in a renamed Deutschmark zone called Emu (economic and monetary union)."

Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine took a more relaxed view of Kohl's speech.

"He is arguing the German case as the leader of Germany. Europe is a partnership of nation states and they are all there seeking their national self-interest, and rightly so," he told BBC television.

THE ECONOMIC FORUM

In conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism, together with the Association for Promoting Tourism in Israel, the Jerusalem Development Authority, the East Jerusalem Development Company, and the Jerusalem Hotel Association

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in the presence of **Mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert MK**

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Moderator: Gad Lior, Head of the Jerusalem Bureau, Yediot Aharonot

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Sub-zero weather in US spreads south

WASHINGTON - Arctic weather spread to traditionally warmer areas of the United States yesterday, sending sub-zero temperatures to the south and threatening Florida's citrus crops.

The privately-owned Weather Services Corporation said temperatures were expected to slump to minus 4 to minus 1 Celsius overnight in central Florida, the main citrus growing area.

In North Carolina, Governor Jim Hunt declared the snow, sleet and freezing rain the worst natural disaster in many years and asked President Bill Clinton to declare a state of emergency.

It was minus 19 degrees C in Nashville, Tennessee. The brutal cold continued in the midwest and central areas and Chicago woke up to temperatures of minus 26 degrees C. At least seven people have died in the past few days in fires while trying to keep warm and a spokesman for the mayor's office said three people had died of exposure.

Weather Services Corp said there would be some relief in the next few days and that temperatures were expected to rise steadily in those areas hardest hit by the bitter cold. (Reuters)

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His 'value added' isn't so taxing to the music consumer

CD is the abbreviation not only for Compact Disc but for Coconcerts' Demise, according to pianist Tomer Lev.

"The concert in which the artist comes, bows, plays and leaves is totally passé. Today's audience is searching for a little bit extra than what a CD can offer."

This development is opening the door to a new era in concert-going and performance practice, says the 28-year-old Jerusalem native, who recently completed his doctorate at the State University of New York in Stony Brook.

Lev offers "added value" by making music an interdisciplinary experience and placing the works in a cultural and historical context. Last season Lev inaugurated two series of what he calls coconcert-talks, in which a certain theme is being presented and followed through.

One of these series focused on fin-de-siècle Paris in general and in particular on the music of Debussy, Ravel and Satie.

"It was the age of enlightenment for the interdisciplinary in arts. It

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

was a time when painters, poets, writers, musicians and even film makers were flourishing in Paris, a time in which each and every art form was totally related to all the others."

What started last year on a small scale at the Jerusalem Music Center has grown this year to a much more varied series at the Tel Aviv Museum. "Last year was just piano music. Now we have more interdisciplinary work and more musicians."

The point of departure for this series is a clear understanding that "this music is part of a larger picture, of a larger artistic environment which should be understood too."

His partner is television personality Emanuel Halperin, who is responsible for finding relevant period texts and delivering them to the audience. Halperin also explains about the overall artistic context of the time while I talk about the music we play."

This year's Tel Aviv Museum series opened a few months ago with a Debussy concert and continues this month with two more concerts. Tomorrow features a Ravel program including two unknown works which were discovered and printed in 1975. On February 27 there will be an Eric Satie concert.

Lev maintains that each of the composers represented in the series was strongly influenced by World War I.

"We make a point of playing works which were written directly as result of the war and show how these events changed the life of these composers." The final concert in the series takes place on May 7.

Not all such interdisciplinary concerts are a success, admits Lev, citing the example of his recent appearance with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in Scriabin's *Poem of Fire*. Special lighting design was added to the concert, an experiment that left audiences cold. He won't give up, however. "I do believe in this opus



Pianist Tomer Lev believes audiences need to hear more than what they get on a CD.

and I believe that in a right presentation it could be very successful."

Batsheva troupe floored by UK choreographer

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Choreographer Paul Selwyn Norton likes to get down. Dancers often spend as much time on the floor in his works as they do in the air. This holds true of *The Rogue Tool*, which he is creating for the Batsheva Dance Company.

"I make them do on the floor what they would normally do when they stand and go into the air," said the 32-year-old British choreographer, at the Suzanne Dellal Center, while illustrating the sensation he asks his dancers to transmit to the audience. "I take the dancers to the furthest possible extreme of gravity and then destroy it."

Norton has been creating dance for only four years. He started out as a medical student and has a degree in theater, which he put to use with various companies in the UK and in the Netherlands. It wasn't until he was spotted by a Dutch theater director in a disco that Norton turned to dance professionally.

"People try and explain what I do in terms of my past. They tend to say, he did this and that because he was a medical student. Then they found all kinds of disco elements in my work. It irritates me."

His theatrical background does come into play, however. "I take theatrical ideas and rework them

in terms of movement values." Above all, he likes "the grotesqueness in cartoon imagery."

In a rehearsal room at the Suzanne Dellal Center, Norton doesn't interrupt the dancers' work much. He lets the company members to go through long stretches of his movement before giving some comment or asking for a few changes.

Norton has choreographed only three other works: *Johnny Panic* (1992), which was premiered at the Spring Dance Festival 1993; *Judy's Crown* for the Dutch National Ballet in 1994; and *Pork* for the Cadence Festival 1994. He doesn't try to disguise the fact that he's a relative neophyte in dance.

"Most of the dancers I work with have far more technical information in their body than I do. So at times I have to rely on them and get their help in order to get out of a certain situation where I simply don't know how to continue."

Norton finds it particularly stimulating to work with Batsheva, as he works in an entirely different way than the company's artistic director, Ohad Naharin. "I destroy the natural sense of movement while Ohad builds on that. But this is just what turns me on, it's how I process information."

His works all deal with movement, rather than narratives.

"I like to extrapolate movement, to take away the idea of gravity and push more towards the floor," Norton adds that he is always "looking at the body as a scientific tool. The body for me is an anatomy of an inflatable bag of skin. And then I ask myself, if that is the case then how do we actually move?"

The Rogue Tool is danced to the music of renowned British jazzman Fred Frith. But for a long part of the rehearsal period he simply used a rhythm provided by the composer to work with. The final piece arrived less than a week before the premiere this Thursday.

His new work for Batsheva is about dysfunctionality, Norton asserts. "I work in an organic way. I like to find the relationships between the elbows and the knees for example. I like to create schizophrenia in the body."

The Rogue Tool will be premiered on Thursday by the Batsheva Dance Company at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv, with further performances Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. It is performed on a double bill with Tero Saarinen's *Fluck*, which the Finnish choreographer created for Batsheva last season.

A very bleached raisin in the sun

FILM REVIEW
ADINA HOFFMAN

WHITE MAN'S BURDEN

★★★

Written and directed by Desmond Nakano. Hebrew title: *Shofar in Loma*. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance strongly advised.

Louis Pinnuck — John Travolta
Thaddeus Thomas — Harry Belafonte
Marsha Pinnuck — Kelly Lynch

In 1917, Russian formalist literary critic Viktor Shklovsky outlined an artistic technique he called "defamiliarization."

"The purpose of art," he said "is to impart the sensation of things as they are perceived and not as they are known." That is, the writer must use a variety of methods to jar familiar objects and phenomena from their ordinary contexts and so make us see them as if for the very first time.

Screenwriter Desmond Nakano's directing debut, *White Man's Burden*, employs this kind of defamiliarization to powerful, timely effect, and through a deceptively simple switch in perspectives provides an unsettling view of race relations in America today.

The movie's setting looks exactly like contemporary Southern California — with one crucial difference. Blacks represent old wealth and power, while whites have been consigned to the inner city and the underclass. According to this reversal, the luxurious mansions of Beverly Hills are occupied almost entirely by well-tailored blacks who drive sleek Rolls Royces and own corporations. The whites, meanwhile, live in broken-down, dangerous neighborhoods where gangs of skinheads rule the roost and policemen (black, of course) cruise by

only occasionally — most often to beat up an innocent man who "meets the description" of a criminal suspect. In other words, he's white.

John Travolta plays Louis Pinnuck, a factory worker with a wife (Kelly Lynch) and family to support. One day, Louis's dapper black boss asks him to deliver a package to the wealthy Thaddeus Thomas (Harry Belafonte). It's far out of Louis's way, but he agrees without complaint. When he arrives at the gate of the posh estate, a white maid buzzes him inside and tells him to go around to the side entrance. Louis gets a bit lost, though, and winds up accidentally glimpsing Thomas's nude wife through a window.

As soon as Louis's boss gets wind of the incident, the white man loses his job and is given no chance to explain. And things grow worse for Louis quickly; he and his family are evicted, then his wife packs up the kids and goes to live with her mother in the housing projects. Enraged, his pride wounded, Louis decides to take matters into his own hands. He kidnaps Thaddeus Thomas and demands to be paid for the days that he's been out of work.

Didactic and, well, black-and-white as the fable may sound, *White Man's Burden* works by means of creepy insistence, reducing matters slightly to make its worthwhile point. (There are no middle-class white people in the movie, or poor black ones.) What's more surprising, the film has a prickly sense of humor.

Driving his battered pick-up truck through a ritzy part of town, Louis averts his eyes from the little white sambo on somebody's lawn. Thomas's wife coo-coo-



John Travolta plays a member of the white underclass in this vision of a Southern California which is driven by a startling racial reversal of fortunes.

scendingly about a bunch of "adorable little white children." There are numerous examples of this disturbing, shoe-on-the-other-foot satire in the script, written by Nakano, who is neither white nor black, but Japanese-American. His outsider's perspective lends the film an evenness of tone that might not be possible otherwise. It's clear that the filmmaker feels most strongly for Travolta's char-

acter, but he never turns Belafonte's Thaddeus into a complete villain either.

The casting of the two actors is also fairly inspired. Travolta may well be the blackest white man in movies today. He sounds completely natural as he utters Nakano's jived-up dialogue, and his explosive hand gestures fall into a peculiar pan-ethnic category — part Sicilian, part hip-hop.

More importantly, he manages the range of angry-hurt-desperate emotions that drive Louis and make us feel for him, beyond color.

Belafonte, too, carries himself with dignity. Through his measured performance, we understand that, in order for the racially-fractured situation in America ever to start to improve, empathy will need to flow in all directions.

Whirligigs discarded en route to the 'Village'

HELEN KAYE

The first of four models Alexander Lisiyansky built and discarded for the set of *Village* was a stage-filling staircase interrupted by half a dozen Rube Goldberg contraptions that whizzed, clanked or swung.

"I usually work with models from the beginning," says the 37-year-old architect, artist and theater designer, "because it's easier to understand the space that way."

He and *Village* director Yevgeny Arye finally decided on a revolving wooden walkway surrounding and surrounded by "fields" of grain.

And "just as the little adventures of *Village* turn within the great events of history," as Yehoshua Sobol puts it, so the people and set pieces come and go on the revolve.

The Geshet Theater commissioned *Village* from Sobol, the first Israeli play the theater has done. It's about the daily life of a little village somewhere in the Land of Israel during the tumultuous years from 1940-48.

His *Village* set is the first Lisiyansky has done for Geshet although he was with the company in Moscow. A pen-and-ink drawing he sketched just before he immigrated in 1990 shows a group of bearded and hatted Jews huddled at the edge of a cliff. Far, far below is the sea, and in the sea floats, uncertainly, a little tiny land with "Eretz Yisrael" written on it.

Today, that leap into the unknown is comfortably behind him. With his teacher wife, Galia, Lisiyansky relaxes into the worn cushions of the old sofa in his basement studio at Geshet. He's had four one-man art shows in the last four years, and in 1992 won Best Stage Designer of the Year from the Tel Aviv Museum.

He has a solid career in the theater and is on the verge of submitting an entry for a big architectural project. His Hebrew is pretty good now. The couple's 14-year-old daughter, Nastasya, is a regular Israeli kid and two-and-a-half-year old David is a bouncy sabra. Lisiyansky was a second-year architecture student at the Architectural Institute in his home town of Voronezh when he saw the Taganka Theater production of *Hamlet* designed by David Barovsky — who later became his friend and mentor.

Lisiyansky graduated in 1980 and went straight into the theater because the immediate post-Brezhnev era "was an uninteresting time for architects."

In 1982 he became Barovsky's apprentice at Taganka in Moscow, and in 1984 moved his apprenticeship to the equally prestigious Sovremennik Theater, whose chief designer he became until he emigrated.

He designed some 40 shows in Moscow, Voronezh and other Russian cities. In 1987 he was asked to design the Russian pavilion at the Prague International Quadrennial for Stage Design, and won a gold medal for it.

So why did he come here? Growing up in Voronezh, he explains, "I knew I was Jewish, but that's all. I never experienced antisemitism there, nor when I came to Moscow, but at the Sovremennik, I felt I had no place to go. I went to talk to David, and he suggested Israel."

His first design job here was for Yosef Bar-Yosef's *Winter Holiday* at Habimah and he's designed for practically every theater here since.

His life here is economically tough, "but always interesting. I'm lucky that I could work in my profession from the beginning."

Preview performances of *Village* start today at the Geshet Theater in Old Jaffa and it premieres February 18.

Women playwrights unvisited by feminist muse

"The era of the woman is approaching," says the literary manager of London's Royal National Theater once told Edna Mazia. "And I'm surrounding myself with women dramatists so I won't be out of a job when the time comes."

Mazia and sister playwrights Goren Agmon and Miriam Kainey — all in their 40s — laugh a little ruefully at this anecdote. They are among the very few local women dramatists — like Shulamit Lapid, Hagit Rehaviv or Anat Gov — who have a proven track record in a traditionally male bastion.

Mazia's newest play, temporarily titled *A Family Affair*, will open at the Cameri Theater in mid-season. Her long-running *Games in the Back Yard* and the 1995 *The Uncle from Cape Town*, both Haifa Theater productions, are solid hits.

Agmon's *The Heiress* will go on at Beit Liessin at the end of the season, while Kainey's *Bianca*, directed by Micha Lewensohn, plays at that same theater from February 18.

Getting all jazzed-up at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque

Saxophonist Lee Konitz, bass player Eberhard Weber and tap-dancer great Will Gaines are among the performers enriching the 1996 *Jazz, Blues and Videotape* happening at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque from February 22 to 24.

What's more, after a long absence, Yoni Rechter is back onstage with a program of songs from his earliest "Angels' Tears" to tracks from his newest album *Thoughts and Possibilities*.

Other programs include *Black Is a Color*, an evening of rhythm and blues and gospel, with saxophonist Yaroslav Yakobovitz, Margalit Tzan'ani and guests from the US including saxophonist Lou Marini, a founding member of Blood, Sweat and Tears.

Peter Wertheimer and Minuet are among the local performers in the 12 concerts, which range from free jazz to jazzed-up Bach. Tickets at NIS 45 to NIS 55 are on sale at the Cinematheque box-office only. *Helen Kaye*

HELEN KAYE

The mercurial Agmon (who is also an award-winning children's playwright) writes plays that go for the emotional jugular, with humor as a buffer. *The Heiress*, triggered by a difficult family experience, is about the conflict between a brother and sister over their mother's will.

Israeli playwrighting, the three agree, has come of age and audiences prefer local plays to translations. Today's playwrights are writing about what matters to them in our society, "and the trend is that there is no common trend," Kainey says.

"Except that the theaters expect some kind of [specific] Israeli or Jewish resonance as an added value," Agmon argues. "Plays with a strong social message are the most successful, and I think that men tend to that sociopolitical level more than we do."

Kainey has a sudden epiphany. "I think that Goren's writing may be the beginning of female writing," she says from under a

mop of graying curls. Three astonished pairs of eyes swivel to take in her explanation.

"Eve if I write for another 200 years solely about women, my world of symbols is male."

"But Goren is different. She writes from some place totally inside herself. Her fears, her courage, her humor are totally feminine, totally uncolored by masculine perceptions."

Mazia isn't convinced. "I'm not sure that there is such a thing as female writing," she says delicately. "If you're angry at the system or this world order that men control and if you get up in the morning and write about it then it's female writing."

"Human existence seems so tragic to me: death, disease, accidents, that I haven't yet reached the place where I can concentrate on the man-woman thing."

Mazia says. "Maybe that's why I've ever had any problems with the male hierarchy of the theaters."

Kainey sticks to her opinion, claiming that if a woman writes a bad play "theater managers come out with all the usual cracks about women writers. If a man submits a bad play, it's just a bad play."

"You always work within your limitations," Mazia insists. "I've never felt discrimination. The theaters are hungry for good material."

"If you're on the map and you bring money to the theater, then everybody wants you. It's a question of economics," Mazia says.

Strident feminism, all three concur, has been missing altogether from local playwrighting. By and large, women playwrights, like their male counterparts, write about what interests them.

"The bottom line," Mazia says, "is whether you're good or not. No good play ever lies neglected in a drawer."

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The power of stupidity

IF there is a moral to the scandal around the dinner journal produced by the American Friends of Bar-Ilan University it is that one should never underestimate the power of stupidity.

Particularly regrettable is that Leah Rabin has seen fit to cast such aspersions. By declaring "it is difficult to believe that this happened just like that, only because of carelessness," she contributed to precisely the atmosphere of suspicion and polarization she professes to abhor.

Yet it would be wrong merely to blame sloppiness, carelessness and bungling incompetence for the incident, and to demand that the appropriate heads roll and let it go at that.

And by failing to emerge from the dinner with an immediate and profuse public apology for the offensive booklet, the university leaders compounded ineptitude with a moral lapse.

It would probably be prudent to dismiss those directly responsible for the initial mistake. No organization can afford employees who can commit such blunders.

Anyone familiar with the way fund-raising dinners are planned and managed in the US will understand how Yigal Amir's photograph remained in the journal. These fancy, expensively produced booklets are planned a year or two ahead.

The dinner, scheduled for November 12, was postponed because of the assassination, and the event became a tribute to Yitzhak Rabin.

Not surprisingly, the routine promotional parts were left intact. And that they contained Amir's picture on almost every other page went unnoticed by the professional (but obviously less than meticulous) event organizers.

To suggest that anyone deliberately left it there "to wink at some of the university's rightist contributors," as some critics have charged, is not only to beggar credulity but to prove that there is no limit to the malevolence of the university's enemies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RELIGIOUS COERCION

Sir, - I refer to Haim Shapiro's report of January 22 concerning Haim Ramon's talk to a delegation of American Reform rabbis.

children will have to do so in the future. Will giving up our civil and religious rights deliver us from the need of serving in our army?

DISTRUST

Sir, - In his article of January 24 "Strange mistrust of Arabs," Gabi Sheffer wonders why some of us mistrust the Arabs and in particular the Palestinians.

I would like to remind the distinguished professor of some facts. Only five years ago, both King Hussein and Arafat sided with Saddam Hussein when missiles fell on the most populated Jewish areas.

As for democracy, when he sees as the basis for friendly relations, the sudden disappearance of 40 ballot boxes and their mysterious return some time later and many other frays in the election are not indicative of democratic behavior.

VOICE OF SANITY

Sir, - Jerusalem Post columnist Moshe Kohn writes that since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, he has received many letters - nearly all of them critical and many insulting.

Among the indications of the problem: the large number of soldiers of Ethiopian origin who commit suicide; the fact that over 10 percent of men who have murdered their wives or girlfriends since 1990 have been Ethiopian.

Like so many others of his kind, Mr. Ramon uses the peace process as a despicable red herring. He knows well enough that the people he wishes to replace are those who oppose the peace process while most liberal-minded Jews are actively supportive.

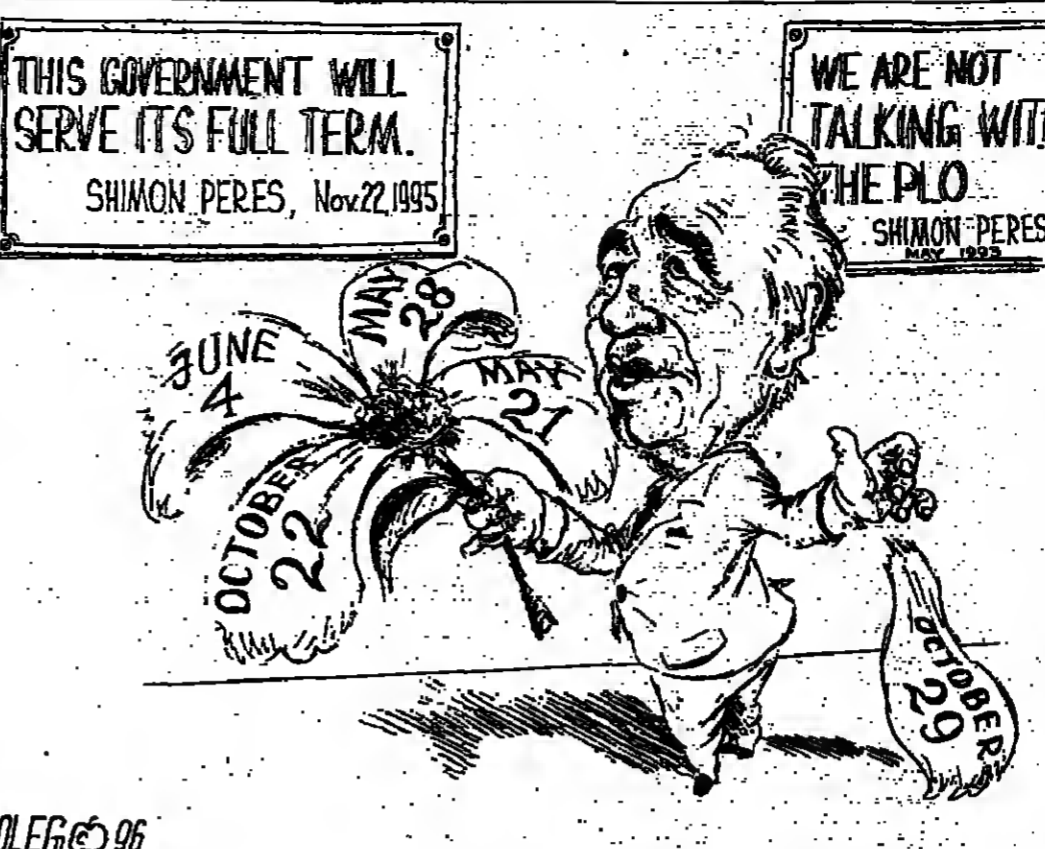
How dare he involve army service in his rhetoric? My husband and children have served in the army, my grandson will be doing so shortly and, I am afraid, my great-grand-

Our conversion classes demand lengthy studies, personal involvement and commitment as well as ritual immersion. Conservative conversion cannot be bought as is the case, it appears, in certain haredi "rabbinical" courts.

There were plenty of organizations out there for people who wanted to fight against apartheid or against the Jerusalem kashrut authorities. The WJUS was not the appropriate venue for such activities.

POLICE PHOTOGRAPHY

Sir, - Former US president Jimmy Carter, professional defender of the "underdog" and the man who engineered Israeli surrender of Sinai, was reportedly disturbed by the intimidation by Israeli police photographing Arab voters in East Jerusalem.



Paradox of modern man

JONATHAN BLASS

Man is made of both body and soul. On a larger scale, the world we live in is built of both nature and higher ideals.

But paradoxically, in what is often described as a material age, we have problems, not in acknowledging the importance of the mind and spirit, but in accepting that the material component of our existence - body, nature, land, the physicality of the mitzvot has any transcendent significance.

Many, for example, are willing to profess a belief in Jewish ideals, but rebel against the concept that what one eats or what day of the week it is can have spiritual importance, a concept essential to Jewish religious observance.

Also affected is society's attitude toward sex. Love is spiritual and significant, sex, being physical, is not.

Almost one year ago MK Yael Dayan defended homosexuality as an expression of love between two people. Implied: How that love is physically expressed is simply not important.

Even the value of life itself, when perceived as merely the natural biological basis of the human identity built upon it, has been called into question.

sterile freedom pitted against the wholeness of life that includes nature and the physical world.

A man who chooses to "die with dignity" is applauded for reserving for himself the determination of the hour of his own death, thus asserting the human spirit's independence of the physical nature that would attempt to define its limits.

It is against this background of denigrating the significance of the material world that the enthusiasm of the Israeli for relinquishing territory should be understood.

We can accept the spiritual part of our existence - it's the physical part we have trouble with.

Allowing our nationhood to be defined by land is seen to be, like any acceptance of physical definitions imposed by nature or history, constraining.

But what is being venerated is the spirituality and freedom of the graveyard of the soul released from the limitations of the body, a

nature is more than just a chance vehicle for expressing higher ideals; heaven and earth, like body and soul, share in a common identity.

A spirituality that denies spiritual meaning to the natural world, to time and space, separates earth from heaven, bleeding life from the first and impoverishing the second.

The holistic vision that engenders appreciation of that beauty, that inspires our joy on the new year for trees, makes our ties to the Land of Israel important far more than security alone.

The writer, rabbi of Neveh Tzuf in Samaria, heads Ratzon Yehuda, a rabbinical training program for graduates of Yeshivot Hesder.

There aren't any shortcuts

The claim made by researchers that the prevalence of the HIV virus is 50 times greater among immigrants from Ethiopia than among Israelis is certainly no consolation to the vast majority of the Ethiopian community here who are not carriers.

Israhelis of Ethiopian origin were more than justified in feeling deeply hurt and insulted by the revelation that their donations to the blood bank have been routinely discarded.

What is more valuable: the pride of a community, or the life of a single person who might become incurably ill as a result of receiving an infusion of contaminated blood?

Would the Ethiopians now be feeling better had they been told in advance that their blood donations were unwanted? It seems to be a no-win situation.

Among the indications of the problem: the large number of soldiers of Ethiopian origin who commit suicide; the fact that over 10 percent of men who have murdered their wives or girlfriends since 1990 have been Ethiopian.

It is primarily a problem of especially trying absorption difficulties that are cultural in origin.

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEP

There are no shortcuts on the road to resolving them. The only thing that will do it is a lot of good will, hard work and patience.

An additional disturbing factor: The Satmar hassidim are lurking around the corner. As their spokesman Yehuda Meshi-Zahav stated on television several days ago, the Satmars are preparing to "save the souls" of the Ethiopians from the godless Zionists.

That is certainly not what the Ethiopian Jews need, any more than it is what Yemenite Jews who only recently got out of Yemen or still live there (some of whom have been brainwashed by the Satmars) need.

The Yemenites are another ethnic group certain parts of which seem to be in trouble.

If asked where the core of the problem lies, Meshulam himself

would undoubtedly point to the unfortunate affair involving the disappearance of Yemenite children in the late '40s and early '50s.

The stories asserting that the children were abducted and sold by the authorities are, without any doubt, a figment of Meshulam's sick imagination.

Children were separated from their parents, and there is no accurate documentation of what happened to them - whether they died (as many apparently did) or were handed over for adoption when their parents could not be located.

Many Yemenite families still carry deep scars from the experience, which involved a totally insensitive and condescending Ashkenazi establishment playing God with people's fate.

Hopefully the current commission of inquiry on the fate of the missing Yemenite children will finally come out with the truth.

The writer is a political scientist.

POSTSCRIPT

LEADERS FROM the rebel Taliban faction in southern Afghanistan say unless men grow beards, they won't be allowed to work except as street sweepers.

Taliban rebels say clean-shaven men are breaking with Islamic rituals.

Since entering the Afghan civil

war in late 1994, the Taliban has captured much of the southern half of the country.

Where they have assumed control, Taliban leaders have forced residents to live by strict Islam.

Women must give up their jobs, education for girls is limited and men are expected to obey prayer and dress rituals.

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war in late 1994, the Taliban has captured much of the southern half of the country.

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For kicks

HELEN MOTRO

Last weekend's brisk air and sparkling sunshine made a perfect day for a boy to grab his bicycle and race the clouds over the horizon.

So that afternoon, a 14-year-old Russian immigrant hitchhiked into a rich neighborhood to steal one. He was wheeling a bicycle out of its garage and get back toward the street when the owners unexpectedly opened their front door.

The boy gaped at them, his fingers white on the handlebars. He froze like a rabbit.

My young lawyer friend happened to pass by just as the police van arrived, and pulled over to watch alongside the small crowd that had gathered. The policemen exchanged a few low words with the bicycle owners while the culprit stood by, his shoulders limp, his arms dangling.

One policeman grasped the thief by the scruff of his neck and led him toward the patrol car. On the way, he raised his heavy shoes and slammed his black molded toe cap into the boy's shinbone.

The boy gasped and slumped, but the policeman shoved him onward. They lurched toward the police van.

My friend drove on for a few minutes in shock. This isn't a neighborhood used to witnessing blows behind the oleander bushes. But by the time she had managed to make a U-turn and get back, the police van was gone, and the street was empty.

Once home, she dialed the police station. "I wish to file a complaint," she said in her confident, fresh-out-of-law-school voice.

At first, the police barely consented to take down her information. After 10 minutes on hold,

The young thief was petrified, but that wasn't enough for the policeman

another voice enquired brusquely: "And who are you?" When my friend replied that she was a lawyer, the complaint was duly recorded, and is now probably threading its procedural way toward impartial resolution.

I have a bunch that the policeman who administered that kick knows he is in deep water. And I am confident he will keep his legs to himself in the future, in public at least - and there's the rub.

AS AN example of police brutality, that kick was a pretty measly affair, and the policeman thought nothing of inflicting it in bright daylight, in front of colleagues and passersby, on an unresisting minor already in custody. In the loog litany of abuse, it was a kick not even worth mentioning.

But if that's what we see in daylight, my friend thought, what acts take place behind closed doors, at night, in isolated cells far from the view of the righteous and the unwarfare?

And what if the citizen who complained had been a housewife who just happened to stick her head or her window at the crucial moment? Or a relative of the victim? The first gruff police response would have put them off.

My friend had expected someone in the group of onlookers to protest too. But neither the family who caught the boy, nor the neighbors, nor the other policemen showed any concern.

And who she related the incident afterwards, expecting indignation, people shrugged it off. "Nobody expects the police to wear kid gloves," said one person who heard about it. To which my friend retorted meekly, "Not even when the suspect is a kid?"

"He only got a kick on the leg, after all, not one between the legs," observed a matron who has always been comfortably on the right side of the law.

This was my friend's first lesson in the use of raw power, and in society's tacit acquiescence. But would she still file the same complaint if she was 10 years older? Or 20?

Perhaps she will take that lesson to heart. Maybe she will continue to cry out when she comes across injustice.

If she can persist in sounding the alarm even after she realizes that cruelty is a norm, she may cause another policeman, and then another, to think twice next time they face a prisoner in a locked cell. But I fear the world will dull her into complacency.

The writer is a lawyer who lives in Kfar Shmaryahu.

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For
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Second Draft

History sinks its claws into the Gulf War.

By R. W. Apple Jr.

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Strangers

Israelis confront their other race problem.

By Serge Schmemmann

2



Rina Castelnuovo for the New York Times

Prince and the Pauper

How does the Duchess owe \$4 million? Hint: the laundry bill was \$36,000.

By Sarah Lyall

3

Vox Populist

Just Regular Ruling-Class Guys



Brook Kraft/Sygnia

Everyone's going down-home. Patrick J. Buchanan, the Republican Presidential candidate, took the stage at a picnic in New Hampshire last summer.

By RICHARD L. BERKE

In this campaign, criticizing the wealthy isn't just crass. It's undemocratic.

THE most striking thing about Steve Forbes's rapid rise from the protected bubble of his corporate jet, the Capitalist Tool, to the turbulence of life as the hot Republican Presidential commodity is what his opponents are not saying about him.

They attack his flat tax plan as wacky. They attack his barrage of television commercials as mean-spirited and misleading. They attack him for lacking government know-how.

But they are more reluctant to fault Mr. Forbes for what may seem his most glaring vulnerability as the first official tests draw near: that this member of one of the wealthiest families in America has bought his way

BEDFORD, N.H.

to the top of the field while touting as a panacea for the middle class a plan that cuts taxes for the rich.

That is because Mr. Forbes, of all people, has managed to acquire a label prized by contemporary American politicians: he is a populist.

Populist? America's original populists, those sharp-tongued champions of struggling farmers and silver miners, were enemies of wealth and power. Their

political party of the 1890's favored Government ownership of railroads and telegraph lines and promoted the graduated income tax. Their attacks on big business helped inspire the Progressive movement, which contributed so much to the very New Deal liberalism that Mr. Forbes and his Republican rivals want to bury.

They were the tribunes of class conflict, the polar opposite of today's conservatives. "You will see arrayed on one side the great magnates of the country, and Wall Street brokers, and plutocratic power," a Kansas populist named L. L. Polk said in 1890, "and on the other you will see the people."

Now come the self-described champions of a new populism whose enemies are not New York plutocrats but Washington bureaucrats. They are a surprising lot — wealthy or Washington insiders or both. Malcolm

Continued on page 4

Not Quite Democracy

Africans Look East for a New Model

By HOWARD W. FRENCH

ACROSS the continent of Africa, for many of the countries that can still dream of economic progress instead of simply hoping to ward off disaster, the most seductive development model lies not in the ripe old West, but rather in the fermenting economies of the Far East.

Hoping to copy blueprints that allowed some Asian countries to leap from poverty to relative prosperity in little more than a generation, more and more African leaders are heading off these days on tours of countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Korea.

And along with their economic recipes, these leaders are returning home with authoritarian political notions. These may clash sharply with the Western ideal of democracy, but they have the merit, the leaders say, of being more in tune with traditional African values.

Sacrifice and Obedience

Having flirted in this decade with democracy, one country after another is now seeking to implement a form of government that meets some technical requirements of democracy but in reality is the most formalized kind of pluralism possible: one in which only the most marginal questions of national interest are subject to open debate, and leaders rig their electoral systems, minimizing to virtually nil the chances that they will be voted out of office.

In doing so, governments in countries from Ivory Coast to Uganda are invoking the model of the tightly controlled Asian society, with its Confucian notions of sacrifice and obedience.

The pro-Government Ivorian newspaper, *Fraternité Matin*, carried the strongest recent articulation of this philosophy earlier this month, in a lead editorial that said that



Kenya is planning a major airport in the home town of President Daniel arap Moi, shown with an army honor guard last April.

Asian lands have had fast growth amid tight control — but only when there is also social partnership.

the strength of Japan came from a caste system in which "the samurai does not seek to replace the emperor, or to speak in his place."

Pursuing this line to its chilling conclusion, the editorialist proposed a formula that would enable this country to develop: "The party member needs to stick to the line and not impose his point of view on superiors; the manager will not exceed his prerogatives and divert the funds of the enterprise for which he has responsibility; the expatriate should not violate any of the rules governing his stay; the cleric, rather than giving political speeches to support one camp or another, should stick to what he can contribute to the spirituality of his flock."

For many experts on Africa, there are many problems with these nose-to-the-grindstone nostrums. Not the least is the fact that they leave unanswered a question that this continent has managed more disastrously than any other: Who will keep an eye on the leaders?

"The success of authoritarian governments elsewhere is based on things that African leaders have not paid sufficient attention to," said Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a Liberian who is the deputy administrator for Africa of the United Nations Development Program. "First there was an emphasis on human resource development. Just look at the high literacy levels in most Asian

Continued on page 3

The World

The Latest History of the Gulf War

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

EVEN at its best, as the late Phil Graham of The Washington Post said, journalism is no more than a first rough draft of history. And sometimes, as in the case of the war in the Persian Gulf in 1991, the draft is very rough indeed. Not surprisingly, the war's fifth anniversary last month prompted a series of revisionist retrospectives.

To a degree unprecedented in recent American history, reporters were limited in what they were permitted to see in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. A good deal of what they did see never reached print or got onto the air, at least in the brief period when the world was paying close attention. Some of what they were told by United States officials was untrue, either because the officials did not know the truth or because they did not wish it to be known. Finally, more than in most earlier wars, many reporters lacked the knowledge of the region and of military affairs to evaluate what was going on.

Unraveling Accounts

Happily, some people have kept tugging at the sleeve of this history, long after the last shots were fired, and a lot of the official version of events is beginning to unravel. As ever, heroes are seen to be human as well as superhuman; villains are seen to have had a method in their villainy. Causes are seen to be complex, and so are results; victories are less than complete. It is a valuable corrective, if it does not go too far, and it is a process as old as war itself. If it does go too far, the pendulum of correction eventually swings back. Grant and Patton, to cite just two examples, have both been up, down, back up and back down again in the years since their feats of derring-do, and the books are not closed on either of them.

This ongoing revisionism is the very nature of history, especially where war is concerned. The confusion of combat is axiomatic, as is the difficulty of grasping the operations of a battalion from the vantage point of a squad or the operations of a corps from the vantage point of a battalion. Only after the controversy of political decision-making has cooled can the participants' stories be gathered, compared and evaluated. Only when secrecy is no longer an imperative can sensitive documents be declassified. Only with the perspective of time can cause and consequence be clearly seen. Changing the lens can reveal new insights and relationships, as has been the case with historians who in recent years have focused more on the manners and mores of ordinary people and less on the high and mighty, or (more controversially) those who have applied Marxist economic theories.

But academic victimology and intellectual political correctness has given the phrase "historical revisionism" a slightly gamy



Kent Meyers/The New York Times

Victory seems a bit less complete now than in 1991, when a ticker tape parade rolled through Manhattan.

smell of late. Rightly so. The process cannot work if the new conclusions precede the search for new evidence or the reexamination of the evidence already on the record. Anti-American or right-wing or feminist or racial biases are not adequate, by themselves, to challenge widely accepted ways of looking at things.

In the case of the Gulf War, the revisionism began almost as soon as the last shots were fired. "The gate is closed," General Norman Schwarzkopf famously declared in Riyadh as the fighting was ending, but it wasn't. It was wide open at Basra, as the whole world could see within a week when two-thirds of Saddam Hussein's elite Revolutionary Guard escaped back into Iraq. It took a little longer to see, in the postwar words of Maj. Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the commander of the 24th Infantry Division,

that the whole end-game was flawed. With hindsight, it was evident not only that the cease-fire came before the trap had been sprung but that the trap itself was badly designed — that the Marines attacking directly toward Kuwait City went off too soon and too fast, reaching their objective so quickly that the Revolutionary Guard divisions never moved south to help in its defense and could not be cut off by the allies' left hook across the desert.

A List of Failures

That was one of the major conclusions of "The Generals' War" (Little, Brown & Co., 1995), the first really thorough account of the politics, the diplomacy and the fighting, written by Michael R. Gordon of The New York Times and Bernard E. Trainor, a

retired Marine lieutenant general who now teaches at Harvard. Based on exhaustive interviews, equally free of hagiography and cynicism, the book won quick acceptance, even among many of the generals. It also documented American diplomatic mishandling of Saddam before the war; the failures as well as the successes of the Patriot missile defense system; General Schwarzkopf's temper, and General Colin L. Powell's extreme reluctance, born out of the shattering experience of Vietnam, to commit American troops to battle.

Last month, television documentaries moved the process along. In an interview with David Frost on the BBC, George Bush disclosed that he had worried that Saddam would pull back across the border at the last moment, making offensive action impossible for the allies but tying them down indefi-



Saddam Hussein

A book and several TV shows advance the revisionist debate.

nately in defensive positions. The correspondent Bill Kuris on A & E suggested that some British and American soldiers' exposure to toxins unknown — lead in the smoke from burning oil wells, nerve-gas pills, insecticides, poison gases released by allied bombing raids? — had produced genetic defects in their children.

A pair of two-hour "Frontline" programs on PBS offered testimony from important figures — Brent Scowcroft, Generals Powell and Schwarzkopf, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher and the former Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, among many others — and challenged a lot of conventional wisdom. Civilian officials like Mr. Scowcroft and his deputy, Robert M. Gates, to say nothing of President Bush, had far more stomach for battle than the top generals, by "Frontline's" account and their own, and even some of the ground commanders, such as Lieut. Gen. Fred Franks of the VII Corps, were timid when battle came. The programs demonstrated how ragged the ending really was, with American mistakes at the Safwan talks inadvertently aiding Saddam in suppressing Shiites, whom the United States had urged to rebel, and in clinging to power. (Mr. Bush admitted as much in the Frost interview.) Mrs. Thatcher, who played an important role in stiffening President Bush's resolve, noted that she and Mr. Bush soon lost power, while Saddam "the aggressor" stayed in office. "I wonder who won," she said.

The answer to that, of course, is still hotly debated. The Iraqis were thrown out of Kuwait, a message of international resolve was delivered and Saddam's wings were clipped. But Shiites and Kurds in Iraq were massacred by Saddam's troops all the same, the regime in Baghdad is as repressive as ever and its nuclear and chemical-warfare capacities were not destroyed as claimed. Like all wars, this one was full of ambiguity. Vietnam and its lessons remain contentious to this day. Whether the struggle in the Gulf was worth the candle — the loss of life, the billions of dollars spent — is a question for decades, and for revisions of history, still to come.

Israel and the Ethiopians

Welcoming Newcomers Isn't Always So Easy

By SERGE SCHMEMMANN

JERUSALEM
THEIR success in absorbing Jews from the world over has been a matter of great pride for Israelis. In the past decade alone, their country of about 5 million made room for 30,000 Ethiopian Jews and a half million Russian Jews, all without massive disruption.

The unexpected violence of the thousands of Ethiopian Jews who protested outside the Prime Minister's office last Sunday, however, showed that making room for immigrants is not the same as making them welcome, and it compelled native Israelis to reexamine many of their presumptions, methods and attitudes in handling "aliya," the coming of Jews to the Land of Israel.

The immediate trigger for the rioting was the disclosure that medical authorities had been routinely dumping blood donated by Ethiopian immigrants because of a purportedly high rate of HIV infection among them. But the larger message for Israelis was how deeply offended many immigrants — not only Ethiopians, but Russians and Moroccans and Yemenites before them — are made to feel by the paternalism of the absorption process, and by disdain for their different customs and ways.

The same self-assurance that enabled Israel's founders to put together a Jewish state in the first place also imbued them with the notion that it was for them to determine how ensuing waves of Jews should be "absorbed" into Israeli society. One result was that many newcomers felt alienated or ethnically stereotyped. Sephardic Jews long complained about discrimination in employment and politics at the hands of European Jews, and Russian Jews now find themselves stereotyped as mafiosos, prostitutes and whiners.

For the Falashas, or Strangers, as Ethiopia's ancient tribe of Jews was known in the Ethiopian language, the problem has been especially acute, because they are dark-skinned East Africans and their religion and customs developed in centuries of isolation from mainstream Judaism.

Israelis met their arrival, in two large airlifts in 1985 and 1991, with huge outpourings of emotion, and in ensuing years the Government poured large resources into housing and education for them. When complaints arose over problems with the education and the slow rate of assimilation, these

were often dismissed as glitches in the transition of a people from subsistence in Africa to this high-tech society.

Israelis took pride in the belief that racism was not among their problems. Some snobbery on the part of the native-born, or "sabras," perhaps, or some regrettable stereotyping, some inescapable disputes over resources, a dollop of paternalism and bureaucracy; but most Israelis seemed to take it for granted that what was being done for the immigrants was for their own good.

But all the while, frustration and anger was rising among the Ethiopians. They were put in trailer camps, their children were compelled to attend religious schools or substandard boarding schools, their blood was tested, and to their ultimate humiliation, the Judaism they had proudly sustained through the centuries was put in question by the Orthodox rabbinical establishment. When the Rabbinate finally agreed to accept them as Jews, it was on condition that they undergo a symbolic conversion. For the men, who were already circumcised, that meant the degradation of having a drop of blood let from their penis. Yet even those who consented to the process were not always accepted as Jews.

The Big Surprise

So it should not have been so surprising that when they learned that even the blood they donated was being rejected, they got mad. Still, even after a newspaper disclosed the matter, nobody expected these peaceful immigrants to explode. But more than 15,000 people turned out, and when the rocks, batons, tear gas and rubber bullets had subsided, more than 70 police officers and protesters were injured.

Most Israelis, and many Ethiopian Jews, argued that callousness and paternalism, not racism, were the problem, despite the stories among the Ethiopians of racist comments here and there. But the appearance, at least, was troubling.

"It's very hard to separate out all the different factors that contribute to the marginalization of a group here in Israel," said Rabbi Micha Odenheimer, director of the Israeli Association for Ethiopian Jews and a critic of the Government's policies. "I don't think racism is the motivation, but the result is to create a real danger of a racial demarcation of an underclass, which will cause Ethiopians to feel that they're being discriminated against because of race."



Ethiopian Jews, seen in a mirror behind security guard's gun, protest in Israel.

Even if racism was not the heart of the problem, the Ethiopians' anger-echoed frustrations among immigrants that Israel will have to address as it moves further from the pioneering, agricultural society of its early years toward a highly competitive, Western-style society. If early immigrants were prepared to start out as menial laborers, it was because most Israelis were not much farther along economically.

A Mirror-Image Problem

The problems of the Russian Jews have been in many ways the mirror image of those afflicting the Ethiopians — the Russians arrived with an overabundance of doctors, engineers, mathematicians and musicians, and their children have generally scored above the Israeli average in school. But their grievance is the same, that the secular and religious establishments refused to accept them as they are and for what they are, and immediately set about to make them over in the image of the sabras.

"It's a very broad problem, very common," said Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet refusenik who recently founded a political party of Russian immigrants. "Israel was created by socialist Jews from Russia who believed they knew best how Jews should live. They feel that those who arrive are a 'generation of the desert' which will disappear while their children become 'normal.' So scientists are told to grow cucumbers, they're not asked to contribute to the society. All waves of new immigrants in one way or another went through this."

Native Israelis would argue that friction is inevitable in the forming of a state from a people that has been scattered the world over for 2,000 years, and that Israel has reached a high level of development and has developed a native-born society.

But the rage of the gentile Falashas served notice that the sabras, too, must realize that "absorption" is not simply a matter of turning immigrants into their model of an Israeli as quickly as possible.

"Perhaps you are not guilty (of racism)," wrote an Ethiopian, Dani Ababa, in the daily Davar Rishon, addressing his sabra friends. "But now you know the truth, or at least some part of it. If you think that from now on you'll understand our problem, let's open a new page, do an expiation rite and try to solve our problems together. If you stop showing such condescension toward us, we will stop showing such extreme emotion."

The World

A Duchess: Her Life In Debt

By SARAH LYALL

LONDON THE Duchess of York, the estranged wife of Queen Elizabeth's second son, Andrew, can't help getting into scrapes. A couple of years ago, sometime after she and the Duke separated, her financial adviser was photographed sucking her toes at an exclusive villa; the duchess was topless. In December, \$500,000 worth of diamonds given to her by her mother-in-law was stolen at Kennedy Airport because the Duchess, hurrying to board her Concorde flight home, neglected to put them in her carry-on bag (they were later recovered).

More recently, the hapless Duchess, formerly Sarah Ferguson and popularly known as Fergie, has run into trouble of a financial kind. She owes, according to the delighted British press, something between \$3 million and \$4.5 million. But whatever the figure, one thing is certain. The debts racked up by the Duchess are greater than the debts racked up by most commoners. Which leads to an obvious question. How does she do it?

Shops Till She Drops

Clearly, it's not just a question of preferring taxis to the subway, paté to bologna or Cartier watches to those in a sidewalk vendor's attaché case. In the spendthrift spectrum, the flame-haired Duchess seems to fall somewhere between Jacqueline Onassis, who used to visit expensive stores and scoop up the same piece of clothing in every color, and Imelda Marcos, who never met a stiletto heel she didn't like.

"As soon as she is solvent, it tends to spend, spend, spend with her," one member of the Duchess's staff told *The Daily Mirror*.

The Duchess herself told *The Daily Express* she resented the public interest in her finances: "The truth is I am making cutbacks, huge ones. But the state of my financial accounts is not anybody else's business."



Austria The Duchess of York on vacation in 1993.

Under an arcane and little-questions system, the Queen's immediate relatives have their expenses taken care of by the Government. But the Duchess holds an unusual position, neither in nor out of the family.

There is no question that her expenses are high.

It's not easy being royal, especially when the creditors come calling.

Her house in Surrey reportedly costs \$9,000 a month just to rent. Last year the Duchess was said to have spent \$78,000 on food and drink, \$120,000 on clothes and presents and \$36,000 on laundry, plus hundreds of thousands of dollars on sundries, for a grand total of about \$81,000 a month. Her staff includes a dresser, a lady-in-waiting, two personal assistants, a butler, a cook, a nanny, a gardener and a cleaner.

She likes to travel, too. When the Duchess flew to



Nepal Sort of roughing it the same year.

the south of France for a six-week holiday in 1994, British newspapers quoted servants that she stayed in a \$30,000 villa and managed to drop another \$150,000 in an orgy of consumption and late-night partying with celebrities like Andrew Lloyd Weber and Roger Moore. Meanwhile, back home in Surrey, the electricity was almost turned off for nonpayment of bills.

Perhaps she feels she has to keep up appearances. The Duchess is hardly averse to handouts from hangers-on — a practice that lesser royals and those from countries that are no longer monarchies, such as Greece, indulge in constantly. But she has alienated some of her rich benefactors. One, Lily Mahtani, described as a "society hostess," took the embarrassing step last month of suing the Duchess, accusing her of paying back only \$7,500 from a \$150,000 loan meant to finance the south of France vacation.

At the moment, said Nigel Dempster, the *Daily Mail's* Fergie-sympathizing gossip columnist, her income consists mostly of the interest on an approximately \$750,000 separation settlement, a "personal allowance" from the Duke of \$22,000 a year and regular child-support payments for their two daughters. The *Times of London* reported that she makes \$150,000 a year from her "Budgie the Little Helicopter" books, the



Kenya Vacationing on safari last year.

highly rated television series and spinoff products.

"She likes rich living, and I don't see what's wrong with that," Mr. Dempster said. "She is the daughter-in-law of the Queen of England."

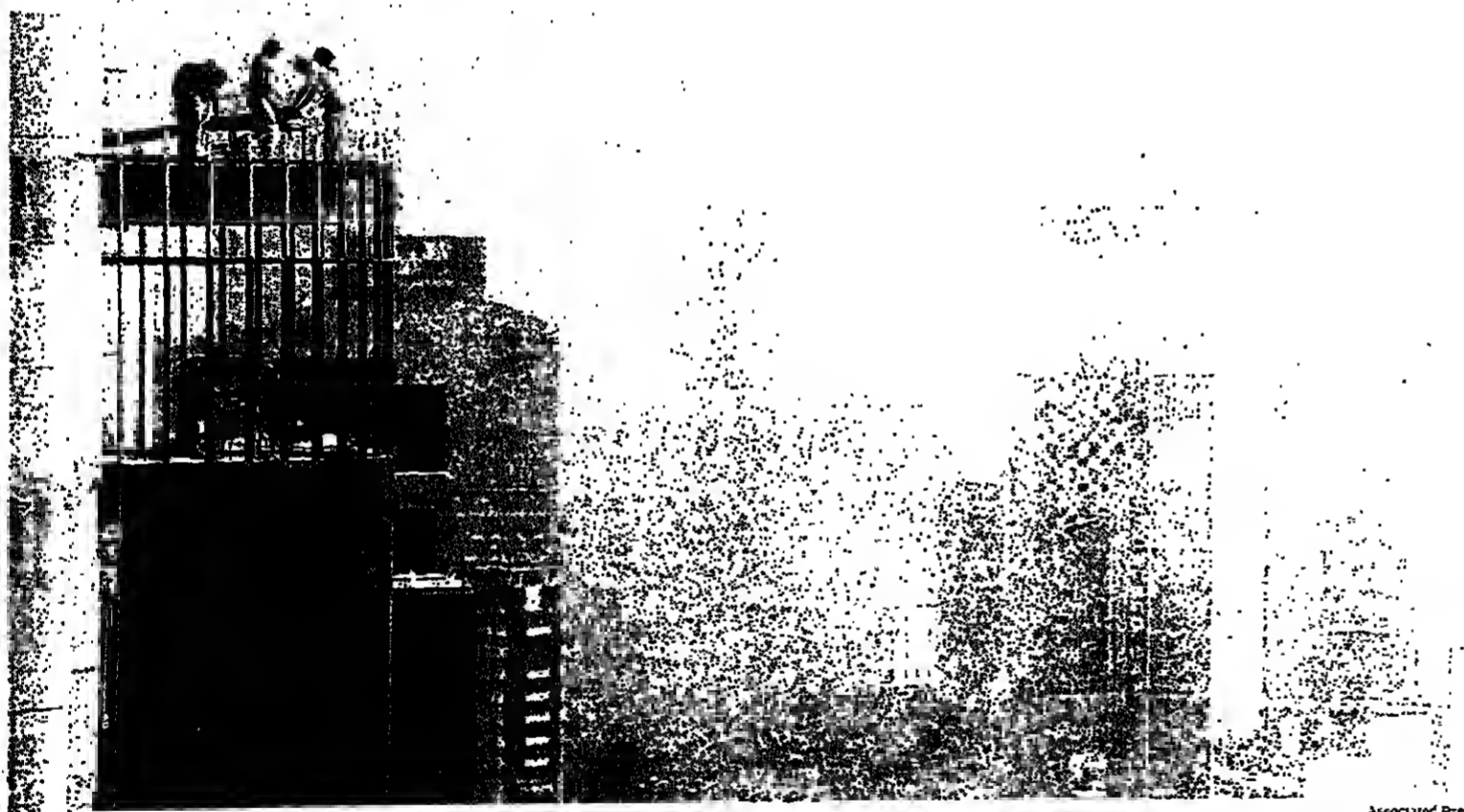
The current financial crisis — which the Duchess claims has been solved by a bailout from a trio of American businessmen who refinanced her "Budgie" package — is not the first. Two years ago, the Queen reportedly came up with \$750,000 after a bank told the Duchess to pay up, or else. When news of the Duchess's latest debts surfaced in public, the in-laws took the remarkable step of announcing they would not help her.

"The Queen has made a generous provision to the Duchess of York over a number of years," a palace spokesperson said. "Her business ventures are conducted quite separately from any royal duties, and any transactions resulting from them must be resolved between the Duchess and her business associates and creditors." The long line includes clothing shops, credit card companies and friends who have given her loans.

Recently, the Duchess of York is said to have tacked up a memo in her house, setting out a stringent regime. From now on, the memo said, the staff had to tighten its belts. No more excess! The Duchess's new spending limit: \$36,000 a month.

Mexico's Political Inversion

The City That Can't Fix the Air



Political stagnation helps perpetuate Mexico City's air pollution. During a pollution emergency last month, construction work continued.

By JULIA PRESTON

MEXICO CITY THERMAL inversion is the name of the wintertime weather event that turns the air over Mexico City into a grayish-yellow pudding of pollutants. Cold air that sinks at night becomes trapped during the day in the bowl formed by the splendid volcanoes and mountains surrounding the city. The poisons spewed out by 2.5 million cars, 360 fume-filled gas stations and thousands of dirty industries are immobilized for city residents to inhale deeply for hours on end.

A succession of unyielding thermal inversions made January especially asphyxiating. At mid-month officials declared a three-day air pollution emergency, barring half the cars in the city from driving one weekend and ordering industries to cut production 40 per cent.

Through the smog, the episode revealed with clarity another kind of trap that bedevils Mexico City — its political inversion.

Though this is a megalopolis of 18 million people, in modern times its mayors have not been elected, but rather hand-picked by the nation's President. So the city government remains a bastion of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, whose six-decade-old rule in Mexico is built on corruption and patronage. The city is a case study in government that doesn't have to answer to voters.

The people who live here have only to look at the muck out the window to see their leaders' failure. The air is much worse today than in 1986, when pollution levels exceeded Mexico's own lenient standard of acceptability on 228

days; last year the standard was broken on 324 days. (United States standards say a limit like Mexico's should not be surpassed more than one day in three years.)

"It's deceptive when they declare an emergency," said Humberto Bravo, a pollution expert at the Autonomous University of Mexico. "The reality is that we are in a pollution emergency practically every day of the year."

A decade after starting to measure pollution, the city has not done a long-term study of its impact on public health. But it did conduct a study that attributed a 165 per cent increase in pollution levels downtown to traffic jams caused by anti-government demonstrations.

A five-year-old program requires all cars to stay off the streets one day a week. It prevented a repeat of the record pollution peaks of 1992. But in a 1995 study, the city government itself questioned the usefulness of the program, which increased overall gasoline consumption by inspiring those who could afford it to buy a second vehicle. Last week the authorities said that in June they will drop the program for cars that pass emissions test.

Fatalism

Residents weeping and wheezing from ozone intoxication responded last month with a cycle of rage and helplessness that has become familiar whenever city systems break down. In conversations, newspaper columns and street protests they rallied against Mayor Oscar Espinosa Villarreal and demanded deep change. (Many dismissed the weekend driving ban as a way for policemen to make a fast fortune in bribes.) At the same time, with a sense of guilt that

has become common in Mexican political discussion, they blamed themselves for tolerating a crooked and ineffective political system. One columnist, Germán Dehesa, suggested that the government should have acted 20 years ago, and then lamented, "They didn't do it and we let them get away with not doing it." In the end the majority view seemed as fatalistic about politics as most people are about nature.

To be sure, public distress was so intense that it drew some novel official responses. The national Health Secretary, Ramón de la Fuente, went on television to report that nearly 5 million people had suffered throat, lung or eye illnesses on the emergency's first day. The state oil monopoly, Pemex, revealed that since December it had been providing Mexico City with gasoline formulated to produce less ozone.

But these actions only served to highlight the lack of more aggressive measures. Scientists say Pemex must move more quickly, and openly, to make much cleaner gasoline for the capital all year round. But the city government has shown no inclination to stand up to the powerful public petroleum giant.

City officials also lack the political independence to clean up a flagrantly corrupt exhaust inspection system. The city just received \$75 million from the World Bank for low-pollution public buses. But past programs to modernize the bus fleet failed when local unions insisted on getting inefficient minibuses, and exhaust only increased.

Next year the city will have a chance to elect its mayor for the first time. Meanwhile, residents say they can look only to another power to clean things up. Self-derisively, they call it the "Secretariat of Wind."

Looking East For New Models

Continued from page 1

societies.

"Then, Asian governments built strong partnerships with the private sector, which ultimately served as counterweights to authoritarian power.

"Finally you have a system of ethics: In the Korean example, former heads of state were ultimately arrested because they offended some commonly held values."

Although it may sound new, today's Asian-inspired ideology is far from the continent's first experiment with paternalism, which was in part a legacy of colonialism. Africa's early leaders, from Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta and Zambia's Kenneth Kaunda to Ivory Coast's Félix Houphouët-Boigny, all demanded the virtually unquestioned obedience of the population under one-party states, which they justified by talk of Africa's traditional socialist values and its emphasis on consensus.

Control Means Profit

Rather than help build thriving new nations, however, the lack of accountability built into these political creations favored the emergence of corrupt elites who quickly discovered that controlling the state offered unparalleled opportunities for stealing from it.

"What we are seeing today is an exact replay of what happened in the 1960's in the move toward one-party states: Maintaining the formalism of democracy while gutting it of its substance," said Thomas Callaghy, a professor of political science at the University of Pennsylvania. "What you end up with is 'crony capitalism,' an extension of the patron-client form of free enterprise, which, in the African case, has always placed the emphasis on the welfare of the patron."

With few checks on this sort of power, Africa will be hard pressed to develop under any economic model. Instead of seeing the kind of accumulation of savings necessary for an industrial takeoff — the kind of capital accumulation that took place in Asia — the continent has witnessed an unparalleled flight of capital, as elites bank their earnings in safe havens elsewhere.

According to one United Nations estimate, \$200 billion or 90 percent of the sub-Saharan part of the continent's gross domestic product (much of it illicitly earned), was shipped to foreign banks in 1991 alone.

Guess Who Gets Rich

In each country, the formula for enrichment differs. In Senegal, World Bank officials have said that Government imports of rice, the staple food, have constituted a major

source of unaccounted-for revenue for ruling party leaders for years. In Congo, top officials and their relatives sign deals that mortgage the heavily indebted country's oil earnings years in advance, in exchange for quick cash.

In Kenya, the Government plows ahead with plans to build a major international airport in the President's home town. In military-controlled Nigeria, the Government awarded so-called "lifting contracts" to its political friends that amount to little more than gifts of handsome

Two things that don't help: A lack of accountability and a flight of capital abroad.

commissions on oil contracts. Based on realities like these, a confidential report prepared last year by the French Foreign Ministry warned of the "criminalization of sub-Saharan Africa" by its elites.

While the ideologues of present-day Africa wish to draw out cultural parallels between the supposedly deferential masses of Asia and hordes of Africans whose salvation, they say, lies in a sort of unquestioning acceptance of a new work ethic, for many the recent news out of South Korea may inspire other observations.

Reports that two past presidents of that country amassed huge slush funds have led to dramatic confessions of corruption and the arrest of these leaders, along with those of several captains of Korean industry. This can be seen as a consequence of the lack of democracy that prevailed through much of that country's modern history.

It Can't Happen Here

As much as some proponents of an African resurrection would like to follow Asian models, at least two elements in the recent Korean scandal stick out as inconceivable on this continent.

In the primary capitalism that still prevails in these parts, heads of industry frequently don't have any need to pay bribes to African leaders. As often as not, they are buddies, cousins and sons.

Then again, in an environment where courts are subject to political control, Parliaments act as rubber stamps, and presidents stay in power as long as they like, who could get caught?

Ideas & Trends

Intersexual Healing: An Anomaly Finds a Group

By NATALIE ANGIER

HERMAPHRODITUS, the son of Hermes and Aphrodite, was a beautiful young man, so fetching that the nymph of the fountain of Salmacis fell desperately in love and begged the gods to merge her body with his forever. They granted the nymph her wish, forming a being half-man, half-woman.

For most of us, the idea of human hermaphrodites is likewise cloaked in myth. We may not know whether they really exist, and if they do, what that means — for them, for us, for our orderly notions of gender. When there were circus side-shows, people gawked at the "famous bearded lady" or the "incredible man-woman." After the freak shows, there were the movies — most notably Fellini's "Satyricon," in which a pale, feeble hermaphroditic youth is disrobed and shown to have both a penis and breasts.

The myths and the movies be damned: hermaphrodites are real and, if the term is taken broadly, they are everywhere among us. At least one in 2,000 babies is

Society of North America, even has the requisite homepage on the World Wide Web.

Like the deaf who resist being forced to learn to speak or to accept cochlear implants, or the dwarfs who do not want to be prenatally diagnosed out of existence, intersexuals do not want to be seen as sick or defective or in need of pity. And while none of them who were interviewed are ready to declare themselves happy and proud and none would agree to be photographed for this article, they feel they have something to say about the androgyny inherent in everyone.

So This Is What I Am

Gathered together, a half-dozen members of the intersex society all look very different, some quite feminine, some muscular and masculine, and some of them say they are occasionally mistaken for the sex opposite to the one they were assigned as children. Their medical syndromes are all distinct, but their stories are strikingly similar. They are nearly all alienated from their families — parents and siblings alike. They blame their families for their secrecy and deep humiliation. They say nobody ever gave them direct answers. They learned about themselves by leafing through medical books and realizing with a shock, "So this is what I am." Many have had multiple and mostly unsuccessful surgeries to fix their anomalous genitals. None of them trust doctors and many refuse to seek medical help even when ill.

Above all, intersexuals object to doctors regarding cases like theirs as medical emergencies. When an infant is born with ambiguous genitals, a hospital will instantly rally its experts into a huddle — surgeons, geneticists, endocrinologists, psychiatrists — with the goal of deciding, is this really a girl or really a boy? The rationale behind the approach is that parents must be told the sex of their child as quickly as possible, lest they reject the infant as a monster. Intersexual activists believe that this crisis mentality often leads to bad medical decisions, including surgery designed to make the unusual genitals conform more closely to parental expectations.

The founder of the Intersex Society, Cheryl Chase, a 39-year-old computer consultant who lives in the Bay area, was reared as a girl and looks very much like a woman, wearing earrings and lipstick. But she is a true hermaphrodite, having been born with parts of both ovaries and testes and an organ that could be construed either as a small penis or large clitoris. When the doctors decided she was to be raised as a girl, they



Hermaphroditus, the son of Hermes and Aphrodite, melded with the nymph Salmacis.

When an infant is born with ambiguous genitals, doctors decide the baby's sex.

born with ambiguous external genitalia, with a small penis, say, that can't be distinguished from a large clitoris, or with a discordance between the apparent sex of the genitals and the sex of the chromosomes.

Now a small but rapidly growing number of people who were born with medical conditions that complicate the standard delivery-room broadcast of the infant's sex have organized themselves into an advocacy group. Most of them find the term hermaphrodite too freighted with medical and quasi-literary implications to be tossed around lightly. They prefer the word intersex. And if anybody is going to call them hermaphrodites, it had better be one of them. Just as gays boldly declare themselves queer, and lesbians call each other dykes, members of the intersex movement proclaim their stance in the name of their new newsletter, "Hermaphrodites with Attitude." Their organization, the Intersex

removed the entire clitoris and the inner labia. Today, she has no sensation left in her genitals, has never experienced orgasm and feels disfigured.

She compares her situation to that of African girls who undergo female genital mutilation, but she thinks her condition is even worse. "I have become friendly with a number of African women," she said. "The difference is that women in Africa experience genital mutilation as a shared experience with everyone around them, and they would feel freakish if they didn't have it. We are isolated by this experience and made to feel like freaks because we did have it."

What Sex Do You Sleep With?

Intersexuals are not all inorganic and not all of them are infertile, though some are so ashamed of their bodies that they have yet to seek partners. Others talk of a rich and stimulating sex life that defies definition as either straight or gay. One 32-year-old pre-medical student, whose ambiguous genitals were never surgically modified and who was raised as a girl, said she has slept with both men and women but has never had sex with another intersexual. "I'm a heterosexual in the truest sense of the word," she said.

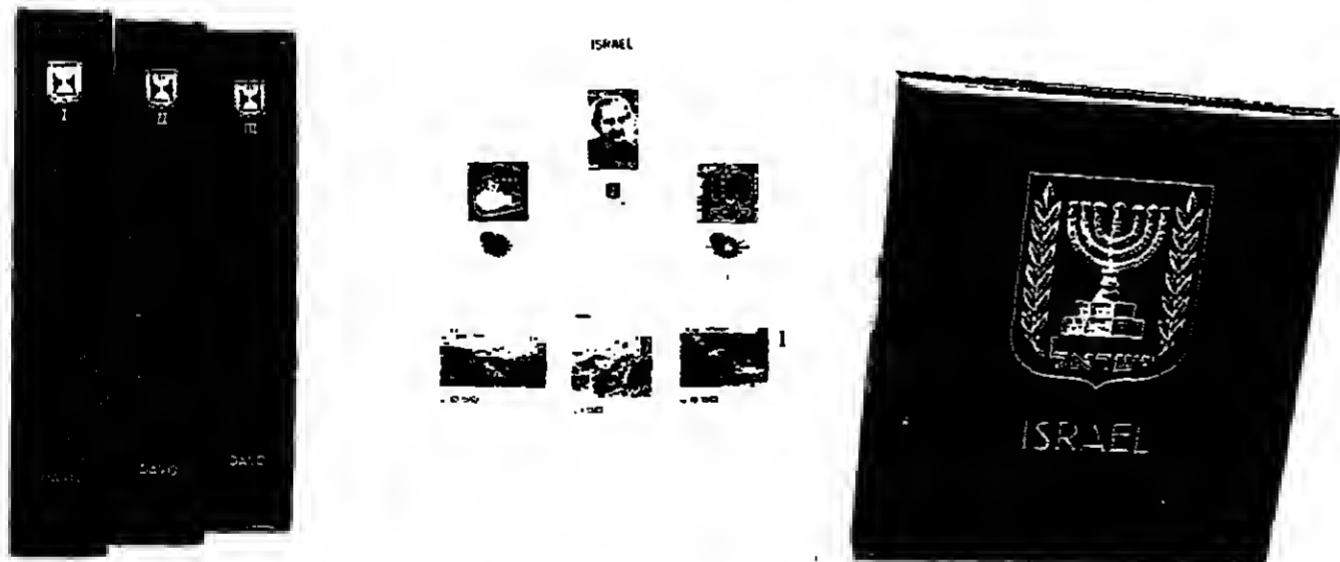
The intersexual society is trying to persuade physi-

cians to stop treating ambiguous genitalia so aggressively. Intersexuals have no argument with medical procedures necessary for the health of the infant — for example, removing abnormal gonadal tissue that may turn cancerous. But they do object to doctors and parents making cosmetic decisions — such as making a big clitoris smaller or an unusual penis more normal — before the patient is old enough to decide.

Physicians who treat intersex infants have varying responses to the intersex society. Dr. John Gearhart, a urologist at Johns Hopkins University, dismissed its members as "zealots" and refused to discuss the organization. Dr. Heino Meyer-Bahlburg of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons said that while he sees the society as serving an essential function as a peer-support group, he thinks that intersexuals' medical conditions may lead to problems no matter what is done or not done. To blame all sorrows and complications on physicians, he said, is unfair and simplistic.

It is the unhappy ones, the disgruntled ones, doctors say, who have joined the intersex movement. Those who have had a good experience and a satisfactory outcome are unlikely to seek emotional support. To which the advocates say, if there are happy intersexuals out there, they have yet to speak up.

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They're Just Regular Ruling-Class Guys

Continued from page 1

Stevenson Forbes Jr. Ross Perot, one of the world's richest men. Patrick J. Buchanan, son of Washington and member of its media elite. Senator Bob Dole, the ultimate insider. Senator Phil Gramm, another Capitol powerhouse. Lamar Alexander, businessman and corporate lawyer. Morry Taylor, the tire and wheel magnate. (Not to mention Bill Clinton of Hope, Ark., Yale and Oxford.)

Rush Limbaugh, who turned himself into a millionaire by playing Mr. Populist to his listeners and viewers, recently warned them against taking potshots at Mr. Forbes. "We're taking the whole issue away from our side," Mr. Limbaugh said, "if we're going to criticize wealth."

There is nothing new about rich people in politics. George Washington was rich. But the most successful politicians among the fabulously wealthy — Roosevelts and Rockefellers and Kennedys — appealed to poor and working-class people by promoting government programs for the disadvantaged. Now candidates are promoting economic conservatism as the new definition of populism. The circle has been closed — Mr. Forbes has defined himself by attacking the graduated income tax that the first populists championed.

"The Government has fallen into such a state of disrepute that politicians want to pick up on an anti-statist feeling in the country," said Prof. Jamin B. Raskin of the American University law school, an expert on money in politics. "So populism becomes a catch-all label for anyone who challenges the political system. Every politician tries to pick up the chord of populism but in that sense the word begins to lose meaning."

Rich-guy populism does seem to require certain ritual obeisances to the lives of ordinary folk. George Bush made a display of eating pork rinds. Mr. Forbes stood out last week when he showed up at a black-tie Congressional dinner in a business suit. Mr. Buchanan sheds his starched white shirt (he shed his Mercedes when he ran in 1992) for down-home garb as he rails against the Washington establishment, upon which he built a lucrative career. Mr. Alexander campaigns in a plaid work shirt.

'Richie Rich'

Despite their own hefty bank accounts, Mr. Forbes's opponents cannot resist digs: Mr. Gramm mocks him as "Richie Rich," and Mr. Dole calls him "Malcolm." But they don't suggest any contradiction between his background or program and his profession of the populist faith. "If I were going to go back and choose parents again, I might choose rich parents," Mr. Gramm said.

Mr. Gramm, like all politicians, is well aware that while middle- and low-income voters may be economically insecure, they don't blame the rich for their predicament. Many agree with the supply-side advocates that loosening Government restrictions on business is just what the nation needs to

climb out of economic malaise.

Polls last week showed that Mr. Forbes is neck-and-neck with Mr. Dole in New Hampshire, the first primary state, and is popular among middle-income and independent voters. In dozens of random interviews in New Hampshire and Iowa, most voters, including Democrats, said they liked Mr. Forbes's outsider message and his willingness to spend his own money, since it showed he could not be bought by special interests.

"I'm more impressed because he's trying to do it with his own money," said Bruce Bowman, 38, a small-businessman from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, after a Forbes speech.

Even anti-Forbes voters see something peculiar about the confluence of wealth and populism. Barbara Bingham, a 61-year-old homemaker from Nashua, N.H., who plans to vote for Mr. Dole, said of Mr. Forbes, "I dislike him intensely." But when asked if he was trying to buy the race, Mrs. Bingham replied: "That doesn't bother me. I think he's sincere in what he says about populist

Supply-siders call themselves populists, and voters concur.

things even if he has not experienced them."

That kind of sentiment was central to the success of Mr. Perot, who put \$62 million of his own money into an independent run for President in 1992. Others followed suit.

"Michael was definitely running as a populist," said Arianna Huffington, an outspoken conservative whose husband, Michael, spent \$29 million and came close to winning a Senate seat from California in 1994. "He had tremendous support from blue-collar workers, from Reagan Democrats."

Mrs. Huffington argued that voters have been more critical of wealthy Republicans than of wealthy Democrats. "Republicans spending their own money becomes a bigger issue because Republicans are supposed to be for the rich and Democrats are supposed to care for the poor," she said. "It's part of a stereotype the G.O.P. needs to shake."

There are similarities between the populists of today and their 19th century counterparts. Mr. Buchanan comes closest, complaining about large corporations and warning of too many immigrants. Mr. Forbes sometimes sounds like an original populist when he attacks the financial takeover of the political parties by money interests.

Still, it is hard to picture the scion of the Forbes publishing empire repeating what William Jennings Bryan said in a speech in Chicago 100 years ago when his Democratic Party embraced populism: "If I had behind me the great trusts and combinations, I know that I would no sooner take my seat than they would demand that I use my power to rob the people in their behalf."

FILM

Their Feet in Texas, Their Heads in the Clouds

By JEFF SILVERMAN

W kind of liked 'The Godfather' and those Scorsese movies, and we started out trying to do kind of a gritty movie," explained Owen C. Wilson of the script that five years later became the movie "Bottle Rocket."

"Then reality bit. 'We weren't tough guys,' Mr. Wilson cheerfully acknowledged, referring to himself and his fellow Texan, Wes Anderson, with whom he wrote the script. 'We didn't have the background to do a tough-guy movie.' So they made 'Bottle Rocket' instead."

"Bottle Rocket" has all the components of a hard-to-get-made, hard-to-release, independent first feature. But looks can be deceiving. The film's executive producer is James L. Brooks, the Oscar-winning writer, director and producer of "Terms of Endearment" and "Broadcast News." And "Bottle Rocket" is being released by Columbia Tri-Star Motion Pictures. The studio had planned to open the film this Friday in 30 theaters but decided last week to delay the opening until Feb. 23, which will help it steer clear of "Broken Arrow," a multimillion-dollar John Woo action film starring John Travolta that opens on Friday and is expected to attract huge audiences.

Normally a studio the size of Columbia would not be fretting over the best date to open a movie in 30 theaters. But "Bottle Rocket," a virtually starless little movie with an impossibly low \$5 million budget, has managed to get and to keep Columbia's attention over a long gestation period.

"Bottle Rocket," which stars Mr. Wilson, 27, and was directed by Mr. Anderson, 26, follows a trio of misguided, middle-class fellows who, under the tutelage of a mentor in crime, try to pull off a petty heist. Their aim is modest, and they make more noise than anything else, hence the title.

"Bottle rockets are these cheap little fireworks that only go about 40 feet up, and they make a little pop," Mr. Anderson said. "But that's all

you expect from them."

The movie, set on Mr. Wilson's and Mr. Anderson's home turf of Dallas, is a comedy caper with Generation X overtones, yet it flies none of the usual pop-culture flags that such films usually wave. There is no sex or real violence and no star power in the lead roles. Its angst is coddled rather than hard-boiled à la Tarantino.

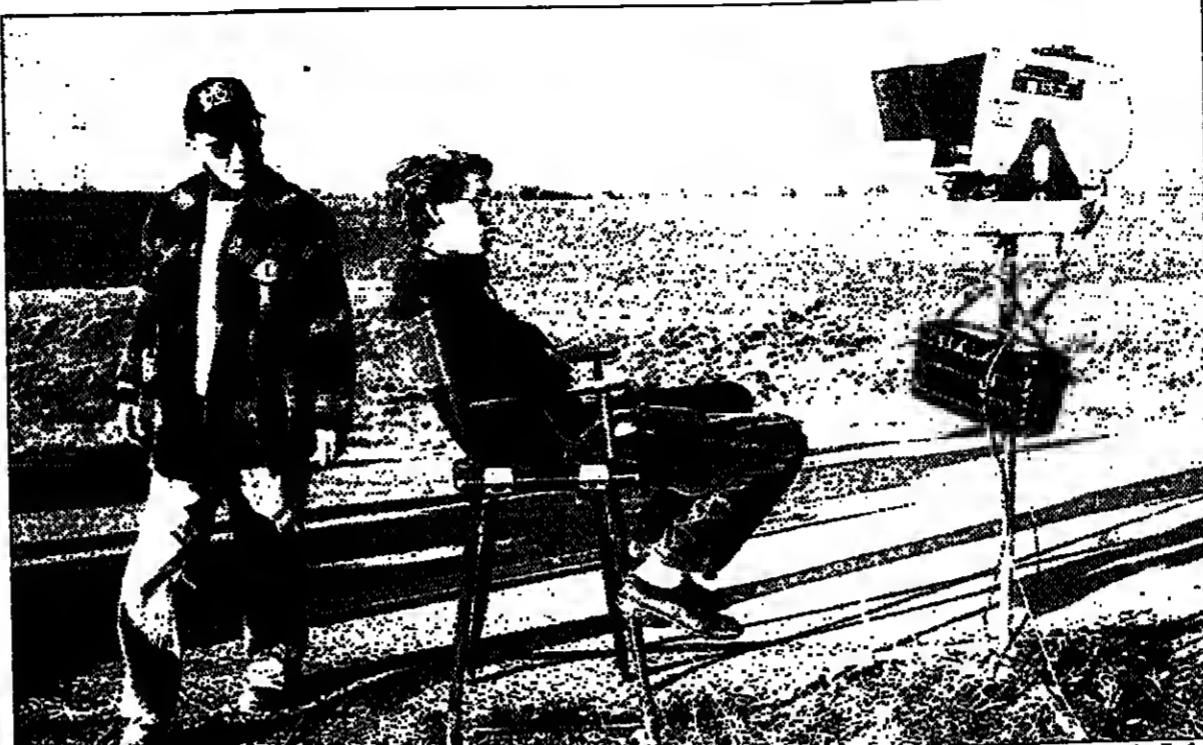
Mr. Wilson plays Dignan, the group's flamboyant leader, who fills a notebook with improbable schemes and plans for the next 50 years. Mr. Wilson's younger brother,

'All of the sudden we had \$5 million to make our movie. It seemed insane.'

Luke, co-stars as the more quietly introspective Anthony, who is first seen breaking out of a mental hospital. To keep things almost all in the family, the older Wilson brother, Andrew, also has a small part. And Bob, the third member of the criminal trio, is played by Robert Musgrave, a close friend of both the Wilsons and Mr. Anderson. (Lumi Cavazos, the star of "Like Water for Chocolate," is Anthony's unconventional love interest.)

Dignan, Anthony and Bob are not the kind of guys to sit in front of the tube inhaling life lessons from "Friends." "They would idolize the guys in 'Heat,'" Owen Wilson said, "except they hadn't seen the movie yet."

It was enthusiasm, energy and vitality, much of it naively misplaced, that turned "Bottle Rocket" into a short film in 1992. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Anderson, who had met in a playwriting class at the University of Texas at Dallas, were sharing an



Polly Platt, left, a producer of "Bottle Rocket," with the director Wes Anderson during filming in Texas.

apartment when they decided to make a movie. Their original plan was to shoot a 16-millimeter black-and-white feature. Thirteen minutes of film and \$10,000 later, they were broke. So they decided to call what they had of "Bottle Rocket" a short and submit it to the Sundance Film Festival, where it was shown in 1993.

"People seemed to like it and think it was funny," Mr. Wilson remembered. But nobody handed over cash to help them make a full-length movie. They returned to Dallas, wondering what was going to happen next.

Enter Hollywood in the person of Polly Platt and Mr. Brooks. The screenwriter L.M. Kit Carson, a friend of the Wilson family, had sent the "Bottle Rocket" script and a video of the short to the producer Barbara Boyle, who in turn sent the material to Ms. Platt. Ms. Platt, a successful producer and production designer, was then the executive vice president of Gracie Films,

and Mr. Anderson moved to Los Angeles and spent 18 months cutting and rewriting their script. "There were some hard times," Mr. Brooks admitted. "Wes is very opinionated and very stubborn. And Owen, who does not think the same way as Wes, is also stubborn. All I could do was point to what I saw were problems and press for solutions. The process could get very emotional."

When the script was ready (having lost, according to Mr. Brooks, "everything that was similar to any other generational film"), there was never any question that the Wilson brothers would reprise the roles they had played in the short and that Mr. Anderson would direct. But Columbia wanted a recognizable name in one small role: the mentor in crime, Mr. Henry.

"At first," said Ms. Platt, "the boys wanted a director — Quentin Tarantino, Oliver Stone or Peter Bogdanovich — for the part, which is kind of perfect, because Mr. Henry is a hero to the characters and directors are heroes to the boys." (Mr. Bogdanovich is also Ms. Platt's former husband.) Instead, James Caan was cast in the role.

Mr. Brooks' production company. Under an arrangement with Columbia Pictures, the studio had agreed to finance a low-budget feature of Mr. Brooks's choice. When Ms. Platt found "Bottle Rocket," she knew she had the movie.

"I had never read anything like it," she said. "It was filled with such wry, self-deprecating humor. I shoved it in Jim's face. Then he looked at the short. It was a miracle. He shared my enthusiasm." Mr. Brooks said: "It had rhythms I had never seen before. It just broke me up. It had such a sense of the ridiculous. And it had such a great selling point: You never saw any of these guys before."

Films Ask: Shall We Dance?

By NANCY GOLDNER

DANCING sways the soul before the brain can get a word in. It is the perfect language of seduction. Choreographers have always known this, but film directors are increasingly discovering dancing — social dancing — as a sure way to steer couples into the bedroom. Stirring and exposing feelings so quickly, dancing pre-empt the brain's job of weighing the evidence and making judgments.

If they had second thoughts, the gum-toting police detective and the Amish woman in "Witness" would never dare to fall in love; nor would the married woman and the roving photographer in "The Bridges of Madison County." But dancing precludes second thoughts for these couples, as it does for the about-to-be-divorced twosome in "Something to Talk About."

In these and several other recent films, including the new "White Squall," dancing is not choreographed by the likes of an Astaire. Rather, it is arranged by the director as a means to an end. With the exception of "Something to Talk About," none of the recent films make dancing paramount; camera work can transmit a romantic message as forcefully as the dancers' steps, and the steps themselves are rudimentary. You and I could do them, with perhaps just a lesson or two at Arthur Murray under our belts.

In "The American President," the widowed President and the lobbyist be might who clinch their love pact while waltzing around the White House dining room during a state dinner, but the camera whirls even faster than they do. It's the camera's dancing that creates the heady feeling of romance, and it's the camera's close scrutiny of the couple's faces that creates the slightly dangerous sensation of romance unfolding in a fishbowl. In the 1985 film "Witness," starring Harrison Ford and Kelly McGillis, the detective guides his damsel in a stop-and-start Lindy in a barn, while a golden oldie plays on the radio. The jumpiness of the camera expresses their sexual tension more than the conventional close-ups of the actors' tremulous faces.

The dancing couple in "The Bridges of Madison County" simply sway, while in "Waiting to Exhale" the bodies of the woman looking for love and of the man who won't give it are absolutely static except for their hands. In this rondo dance scene in a cocktail lounge, all we see are her hands slipping around his neck and his hands pressing into her lower back. Although it's hard to find a justification for this extreme camera angle, the scene does define what dancing is in the movies: It is people



Jeff Bridges waltzes Carolin Goodall in "White Squall."

touching with music and without speech.

Speechlessness is, of course, normal in concert dance, but in the movies it is out of the ordinary and thus a powerful ally of seduction. In "The Bridges of Madison County," Robert Kincaid and Francesca (Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep) at first exchange intimacies by exchanging stories about their past. Robert protests the effort to reveal himself with words. They do much better at the intimacy game by swaying together in a tight hug alongside the kitchen table while Johnny Hartman croons on the radio. There is no talk; there are just their heads buried in each other's neck and the camera hugging them as they hug each other. Out of these images comes the summation of the movie's theme: about a love so hermetic that it can survive death. When this love is unearthed by Francesca's children, it is like a perfectly preserved archeological artifact that transforms their lives.

The dance scene in "Something to Talk About," a movie released last fall, is as raucous as the one in "Bridges" is hushed. Eddie (Dennis Quaid), the two-timing anthro, wants to reconcile with his wife, Grace (Julia Roberts). He's about to go into a long explanation about how the hunch with his divorce lawyer was all a mistake, then he checks the narration. "Come on, baby, let's dance," he bellows at Grace and, dragging her by the arm onto the clubhouse dance floor, seduces her into a reconciliation by dancing her down memory lane.

At first, Grace resists twirling under his arm and is embarrassed by his loose, goofy moves. But she can't resist the power of "muscle memory." She twirls. Then he leads her farther back in time, to the happy days when they practiced dance routines in the den. One-two-three-kick, right knee up, left knee up. Whether she likes it or not, here is Grace moving in instinctive harmony with

the man she loathes.

Now the dance moves into freer territory. Taking off his jacket and warmed by champagne, Eddie spins her and throws her and dips her to the ground. They dance solo, roaming into free-form, no-man's-land soliloquies and couple up again. By now, Grace doesn't know what has hit her, and she doesn't much care. She just rolls with the punches and, supported by intuition and practice, stays in step. By dancing, Grace discovers that she and Eddie are still very much married.

Seduction is the most natural use of dancing, but in several films dancing serves different ends. In "White Squall" and in the 1992 film "Scent of a Woman," for example, the directors use it to show the audience a new aspect of the protagonists' character.

"White Squall" is about the tragic sea voyage of a brigantine in which six people drown in a storm. Having lost his wife in the squall, the skipper Christopher Sheldon (Jeff Bridges) stands to lose his professional credentials as well during a tribunal that takes place following the disaster. He is saved by his surviving crew, all of them teen-age boys, who grew to love him during the voyage and now testify in his behalf.

For this turn of events to be credible, the audience must love Sheldon too, which is no easy task. Sheldon is one of those tough old salts who teaches his young crew by bullying them and, in one case, endangering a boy's life. The film's director, Ridley Scott, shows the audience Sheldon's soft side by having him waltz with his wife at a marina restaurant in the Caribbean. "Sometimes you act halfway normal," his wife says as they twirl around. He grins and agrees, and so does the charmed audience.

Something similar happens in "Scent of a Woman." Until the tango scene at a New York hotel, the film's blind hero, Lieut. Col. Frank Slade, retired (Al Pacino), is thoroughly obnoxious. Then he asks a young woman to tango and guides her with precise, deliberate steps, careful changes between languid and sharp moves, and delicate pressure applied to various points on her back so she can follow his lead with ease. The main point of the scene, under Martin Brest's direction, is not that Slade is a good dancer but that he is a marvelous teacher. In a flash the audience understands that this confirmed curmudgeon cares for people, particularly young people whom he can mentor in the ways of life — be it dancing or standing up for their rights. The tango scene sets the stage for the movie's climax, in which Slade lectures the students at a prestigious but corrupt prep school on honor and honesty and gets a standing ovation. The tango is the narrative turning point of the movie.

WITH COMPLIMENTS

By DAVID J. KAHN / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 Deception
- 5 "This Gun for Hire" star, 1942
- 9 Fires
- 13 Story, sometimes
- 18 White-spotted rodent
- 19 "O.K."
- 20 Cowboy's lasso
- 22 Bringing ruin
- 23 Compliment for Ken Griffey Jr.?
- 25 Killer whales
- 26 Bigger than big
- 27 Volunteer's words
- 28 Air conditioner abbr.
- 29 Compliment for Mickey Rooney?
- 31 Compliment for Frankenstein's monster?
- 34 Disinclined
- 35 Unsteady on one's feet
- 36 Not beyond
- 39 School founded in 1440
- 43 Dig in
- 45 Missile launcher
- 47 First name in TV comedy
- 48 Brief
- 49 Classical meeting sites
- 52 Block houses?
- 54 Pacify
- 57 Board game from India: Var.
- 60 "At Seventeen" singer Janis
- 61 10-stringed lyre
- 62 Kind of center
- 63 Attack
- 64 Expect
- 65 Sum total
- 67 Compliment for Wyatt Earp?
- 70 Noted Corsican family name
- 73 "The Crying Game" actor
- 74 Bartender's supply
- 76 Mirror
- 77 "The calmly gathered thought": Whitaker
- 78 "Roll — bones"
- 79 Capable of changing
- 82 Queen's Cup, e.g.
- 84 French wine center
- 86 Rush hour shortage
- 87 — Fox
- 88 — Japanese War
- 90 Hamelin belpier
- 93 Kind of brain
- 94 Reliever's goal
- 95 Computer access code
- 97 The time being
- 100 Testifies
- 102 Compliment for E.T.?
- 106 Compliment for Alessandro Volta?
- 111 Hotel ending

DOWN

- 1 Indulge
- 2 "— talk?" (comedy line)
- 3 Chemical catalysts
- 4 "The Song of the Earth" composer
- 5 Canadian pol. label
- 6 Clear —
- 7 Fourth in a series
- 8 Fooling
- 9 Puts pressure on
- 10 Yorkshire river
- 11 Ocean compound
- 12 Played for time
- 13 Under way
- 14 Debut at Turin, 2/1/1896
- 15 Particular
- 16 Low
- 17 TV's "— Three Lives"
- 21 Compliment for Mary Lou Retton?
- 24 Glamour rival
- 30 W.W.II heroes: Abbr.
- 32 Men
- 33 Spin
- 37 Caddy's offering
- 38 Composer — Pres
- 40 Miss topper
- 41 Attack
- 42 Family reunion member
- 43 Psychic's field
- 44 — standstill
- 46 Name add-on
- 50 — part (role-plays)
- 51 Olympics event
- 53 Ribbon holder of song
- 55 Bassanio's love
- 56 Take for oneself
- 58 Off-base
- 59 Compliment for the Marquis de Sade?
- 61 Before the present
- 64 Archeological datum
- 65 "So!"
- 66 Actress Scacchi
- 68 "Am — blame?"
- 69 Minor-league, maybe
- 70 Zingers
- 71 Milieu of 99-Down
- 72 Israeli region
- 75 Sales tax in some states
- 78 Lateen-rigged boat
- 79 Its scientific name is Naja haje
- 80 Go (for)
- 81 That: Sp.
- 83 Sunken spaces
- 84 Hosp. personnel
- 85 Assisted, in a way
- 89 Practices totalitarianism
- 91 Commit
- 92 Down Under boulder
- 95 — favor
- 96 Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace
- 98 Litter-free
- 99 "Master Class" subject
- 101 Sells by machine
- 103 Fraser of 50's-60's tennis
- 104 — nothing of
- 105 Dispatch
- 106 Code word for "A"
- 107 Conceal, as a card
- 108 Kind of pipe
- 109 Racketeer's org.?
- 110 Request
- 118 Nice article

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SLOP HERE VESTAL AIR
HYDE ALERT ELTDRO LEO
ARIA CLEAR REAGAN TAR
HENRY KISSINGER BECALN
TENSE SUE OTSARN
SCARNE BEO OECOR
HINETYPERCHETOP APEO
INTEL EXIT DLY FLUDE
PEL STAG RUYE DIBIT
SNARL SISA HONETS
THEPOLITICIANSGVETIE
RACINE WITE ARLES
AROE GANT STUD ODO
ROLES DISH SEAN ASPEN
PIERS OTHERTENPERCENT
MESSY AIO LEANTO
INFANTE FIR SLANT
SOUNTY AADOREPUTATION
ELN INAMAR ELENI EDGE
ATE AIRING OIRGO ROLE
DEO LEASES EBER SLED

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Sleepless in Albany

Gov. George Pataki is lying awake at night worrying about his budget problems. It turns out that he has imprudently assumed nearly \$2 billion in savings for the next year, to be derived from a budget deal in Washington that may never occur. After resting in the Caribbean, Mr. Pataki journeys to Capitol Hill today to join other governors for an uphill push for a budget accord that would help bail many states out of financial problems similar to New York's. His mission will not succeed unless he demands more concessions on Medicaid and other issues from his fellow Republicans.

For all of last year, Mr. Pataki watched silently while some New York Republicans served the interests of Newt Gingrich more than those of their state. G.O.P. stalwarts like Susan Molinari of Staten Island, Bill Paxon of suburban Buffalo, Gerald Solomon of the Hudson Valley and Daniel Frisa of Long Island voted for a range of programs that punished New York, particularly welfare and Medicaid changes. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, working with Senator Daniel Moynihan, at least managed to improve the Medicaid reimbursement formula and provide \$1.3 billion in relief for New York. But that measure was vetoed, properly, by President Clinton because of its other harsh spending cuts and overly generous giveaways for the well-to-do.

Until the last few days, the dream of a grand compromise on the Federal budget seemed dead. But now some deal-hungry moderates in both parties have been meeting among themselves to salvage something. They are joined by a small bipartisan group of governors led by John Engler of Michigan, a Republican known for his advocacy of welfare and Medicaid reform. Both Newt Gingrich and the White House have dropped hints of possible support. For example, there is talk of a much smaller tax cut than either the White House or the Republicans have supported. A smaller tax cut might allow for smaller spending cuts — and, thus, more Federal money for hard-pressed states.

The Future of Taiwan

With the cold war over and the nations of East Asia booming, arguments over the status of Taiwan might seem the relics of another era. Sadly, they are not. A sudden surge of Chinese belligerence toward Taiwan has made the island one of the most volatile issues facing America and the world. Before the issue turns into a dangerous crisis, political leaders in Beijing, Washington and Taipei need to step back from confrontational policies and put Taiwan back into perspective.

For the better part of a year, China has been campaigning against attempts by Taiwan's President, Lee Teng-hui, to win back some of the international recognition that Taiwan lost two decades ago when most of the world accepted Beijing's claim to be the legal Government of China. The mainland has conducted military maneuvers and missile tests off the island's coast to pressure Mr. Lee.

China should end this intimidation at once. Politicians in Taipei should stop indulging their voters and provoking the mainland with symbolic campaigns for international recognition and concentrate instead on building and protecting the freedoms and autonomy that Taiwan already enjoys.

Congressional Republicans, for their part, should refrain from inflammatory gestures like inviting Taiwanese leaders to Washington. Such official invitations call into question America's commitment to recognize only one China. The Clinton Administration must calmly, firmly and consistently remind Beijing that America's one China commitment is explicitly premised on the mainland's peaceful conduct toward Taiwan.

Taiwan is now neither an independent country nor a province governed by Beijing. After Chiang Kai-shek lost the Chinese civil war in 1949, he fled to Taiwan with his supporters and grandiosely proclaimed his administration the Government of all

China. For cold war reasons, the United States went along with this fiction until 1979, when it shifted American recognition to the Communist regime in Beijing. That left Taiwan in diplomatic limbo, since Beijing insisted that any country recognizing the mainland regime break relations with Taiwan.

There increasingly is a case to be made for Taiwanese independence. Taiwan has not been ruled by China for most of the last century. It has a different political and economic system and its people enjoy a freedom and affluence many rightly fear could not survive under Communist rule.

But at least for now the costs of pressing for independence would exceed the potential gains. The most obvious cost is the very real risk of Chinese military attack. A showdown now over Taiwanese independence would also almost surely bring a rupture in relations between the United States and China. Given China's huge population, nuclear status and rapidly developing economy, such a crisis would have global implications.

Beijing, Taipei and Washington should lower the volume of the debate and avoid forcing issues that are best left alone for now. Beijing should stop flaunting its preparations for imminent military action. Taipei should stop pretending it can somehow redefine its international status without provoking a reaction from Beijing. The White House and Congressional leaders should agree to jointly counsel restraint on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

Such a formula would allow Taiwan to hold on to and develop what it cares about most — its freer, more prosperous way of life. It would allow Beijing to coexist with Taiwan without forfeiting its claims to eventual sovereignty. It would give American political leaders of both parties a chance to help preserve Taiwan's freedoms without wrecking relations with Beijing.

Ending Farm Welfare

Congress may be squandering a rare chance to end welfare for farmers as the United States has known it for half a century. A Republican bill to wean farmers from subsidies and move them toward a market-based system has been stalled by Senate and House Democrats and threatened with a Presidential veto. It deserves Democratic support.

The Agricultural Marketing Transition Act, sometimes called the "freedom to farm" bill, would scrap Federal subsidy programs that reward farmers for not planting. Its sponsors recognize that the subsidies, which began as aid to the Depression-racked breadbasket, have long been a program of bloated benefits that prop up food prices. Budget austerity and a spreading antipathy toward welfare for businesses and the well-off have combined to bring farm reform bills to the House and Senate floors.

Under the plan a series of annual fixed but declining payments would let farmers plant the crops of their choice while easing the shock of changing land values now pegged to subsidy entitlements. Those transitional payments are a form of welfare but they enable government and agriculture to normalize the industry by the year 2002.

Both houses approved this act as part of the overall budget reconciliation bill, but after the measure was vetoed, the farm bill came back. It

seems to have enough House votes for passage. In a nearly party-line vote, the bill fell seven votes short of debate-ending cloture in the Senate, sending both parties into negotiations that could water down the Senate version.

The White House may see political gain with farm states in raising objections to the bill, mainly complaints that rural development programs and other largesse are too severely cut, but the national interest calls for bipartisan cooperation to end decades of subservience to farm lobbyists. Even the politics are changing as farmers realize the subsidy pie is rapidly shrinking.

There is, however, a section of the House proposal that would injure consumers and has no place in a deregulatory bill. The dairy lobby has proposed setting high price supports for milk and cheese as well as imposing new consumer standards that would not improve nutrition or taste but would add mightily to consumer costs. The dairy provisions would add as much as 40 cents per gallon to the price of milk and cost consumers perhaps an extra \$2 billion a year. The bill also leaves huge subsidies to sugar growers and peanut farms in place.

This bill may not dismantle Federal subsidies overnight, but if the dairy provisions are removed, it would constitute a good start and should be approved by Congress.

Prayer Wasn't Issue in Child's Wrongful Death

To the Editor:

Stephen L. Carter (Op-Ed, Jan. 31), lamenting the Supreme Court's decision not to review the tort liability of a Christian Science mother for killing her child, pushes his anti-religious case too far.

Neither the Supreme Court nor the Minnesota Supreme Court, whose decision was in question, denied the power of prayer. They merely held that a parent who negligently refuses to provide medical care for her child is liable for wrongful death if, as a result of her negligence, the child dies.

The defendant mother said that she should not be liable because she believed, in good faith, that prayer would heal the child. She has a right to believe that, but she has no right to inflict the costs of her belief on the child or his father.

Holding the mother and her supportive Christian Science practitioners responsible for the damages they inflicted is squarely in line with our religious tradition. The defendants were held liable because they negligently thought that praising the Lord — ignoring the "ammunition" of med-

ical science — was their exclusive duty to the sick child. The mother should have thought of herself as a mother first, and a believer second.

It is true, as Mr. Carter claims, that we all have a right to educate our children in the religion of our choice, but it does not take much of a lawyer to see the difference between educating a child and making decisions that endanger the life or health of another person.

GEORGE P. FLETCHER
Cardozo Professor of Jurisprudence
Columbia University School of Law
New York, Jan. 31, 1996

Rights, Ethics and a Chimp With AIDS

To the Editor:

Re "Infected With Human Virus, a Chimpanzee Develops AIDS" (news article, Jan. 31): Chimpanzees should not suffer in the name of science. Chimps are the closest relative to the human species, both part of the great ape family. This chimp had the right to live free from the illness he has been subjected to.

Some of the world's most distinguished ethicists, professors and anthropologists, including Jane Goodall, have signed a statement against such unethical experiments. Their Declaration on Great Apes demands that nonhuman apes — chimps, gorillas and orangutans — be treated with the same moral principles and rights as human beings.

The statement says that all apes have the right to life, the protection of individual liberty and a life free from torture.

AIDS is a terrible disease. I lost a close friend to it. But nothing warrants sacrificing the liberty of one living, feeling, thinking being for another.

SMON CHAITOWITZ
Seattle, Feb. 1, 1996

To the Editor:

After reflection, it occurs that a true memorial to the 23 beloved pri-



Igor Kopehatsky

mates that died in a fire at the Philadelphia Zoo would be support for the groups working against time to preserve and protect the diminishing population of wild apes. Let us remember that tragedies like that fire occur every day as we cut and burn rain forest habitats in Africa and Southeast Asia, pushing the primates toward extinction.

ANN LEVINE
Orangutan Foundation International
New York, Jan. 29, 1996

Gay Editor's Transfer Rests on a Lie

To the Editor:

Re "A Texas Paper in a Dispute Over Gay Editor" (Business Day, Jan. 29), on The Fort Worth Star-Telegram's transfer of an openly gay editor from the weekly children's section based on a reader's complaint:

The American Family Association, with which the complaining reader was associated, and the religious right have become expert at promoting the big lie that gay men and lesbians pose a sexual threat to children.

Despite the publicity surrounding cases involving teachers, priests and other authority figures who have been accused of molesting young

people, the vast majority of molestation is perpetrated by heterosexual adults, according to a number of studies.

Child abuse experts cite statistics showing that children are most at risk from sexual predators within their own families, particularly if a stepparent is present.

But the American Family Association doesn't allow facts to get in the way. Its arguments have often borne fruit in anti-gay referendums, restrictive child adoption policies and, in some communities, a prohibition against gay volunteers for programs like Big Brother and Big Sister.

KEVIN FARRELL
San Francisco, Jan. 29, 1996

Weep for Sri Lanka

To the Editor:

Born in Sri Lanka to a Sinhalese mother and a Tamil father, I mourn the news that a truck-bomb explosion attributed to Tamil rebels killed dozens of people in Colombo's financial district (front page, Feb. 1).

As a minority, the Tamils have major grievances that must be addressed.

My father's solution was to migrate to Australia in 1974, part of an exodus of Tamil professionals.

The not-so-fortunate, or perhaps more patriotic, stayed on. The violence by the Tamil rebels will only destroy their country.

This ethnic problem, which goes back centuries, is too embroiled to be solved by the Sri Lankans themselves. Only foreign mediation can help.

E. D. RAJANAYAGAM-ROTH
Sagaponack, L.I., Feb. 1, 1996

Anarchy in America?

To the Editor:

Thomas L. Friedman (column, Jan. 28) suggests that Africa is "a freshman Republican's paradise" because there are no taxpayers to finance a welfare state: that "in Rwanda and Burundi, no one is asked to pay for Head Start," and that, instead, the Tutsi and the Hutu revert to genocide "to grab more resources."

Does Mr. Friedman really believe that 8 percent increases in Medicare spending mean civilization in America but that 4 percent increases foretell barbarism?

Does a free-market economy suppose anarchy?

The United States, as Mr. Friedman observes, is a special place. His commentary helps shred that something special to which we are all devoted.

PETER J. TRAVERS
Hopewell, N.J., Jan. 30, 1996

How Many Is Too Many Children?

To the Editor:

Re "What Childless Women Are Missing" (letter, Jan. 28): We remain agnostic about whether or not it is "better" for women to bear children or remain childless by choice. But Naomi Goldberg's conservative estimate that she may have 1,000 progeny is worrisome.

In a world of growing human population and alarming ecological pressures, bearing 14 children hardly seems something to crow about. Each child raised in the United States has the environmental impact of 100 African children. Moreover, Mrs. Goldberg reveals one of the driving forces behind child-rearing: not selfishness, but selfishness.

It is to be hoped that Mrs. Goldberg and others in her community will have more concern for the world their children will inherit and less for the sheer number of children they bring into it.

ANNE-MARIE COOUR
KAL RAUSTIALA
Waltham, Mass., Jan. 29, 1996

The writers are, respectively, visiting fellow, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, and assistant professor of politics, Brandeis.

The Times welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Those selected may be shortened for space reasons. Fax letters to (212) 556-3622 or send by electronic mail to letters@nytimes.com, or by regular mail to Letters to the Editor, The New York Times, 229 West 43d Street, New York, N.Y. 10036-3959.

No Laughing Matter

To the Editor:

Nowhere in Jeanne Safer's Jan. 17 Op-Ed article did she suggest that all women should choose not to have children, as Naomi Goldberg (letter, Jan. 28) implies. Ms. Safer conveyed that it was indeed possible for women who choose not to or who cannot bear offspring to live meaningful lives.

That Mrs. Goldberg and her friends "fell on the floor laughing" because someone found a purpose in life other than their own illustrates not the compassion a genuinely religious attitude should engender but the contempt and condescension of bigotry.

PAUL GROSSMAN
New York, Feb. 1, 1996

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To the Editor:

Re "The Power of Prayer, Denied" (Op-Ed, Jan. 31):

I cannot agree with Stephen L. Carter's conclusions about the case of Ian Lundman, who died from diabetes when mainstream medical science was eschewed in favor of Christian Science. Nor do I believe that the Supreme Court's refusal to hear the case tells us very much about the freedom of religion in this country.

Who decides a child's fate in every context up to and including life or death is the issue. As long as we view children as the property of their parents alone, with exclusive rights to make, break or extinguish life from such chattel, we will continue to return vulnerable human beings to violently abusive homes, argue whether unconsented sexual mutilation of a minor is a "cultural" issue and allow conventionally accepted and empirically proved medical treatments to be withheld.

Our laws and traditions hold that citizens are responsible to one another and that society will defend the rights of all groups. Why are the kids left out of this?

KATHLEEN SLOCUM
Blairstown, N.J., Jan. 31, 1996

To the Editor:

Re Stephen L. Carter's "Power of Prayer, Denied":

A few purely medical comments are worth noting. Often when cases involving the death of a child being treated by Christian Science prayer are reported, the cause is juvenile diabetes. This form of diabetes is always fatal without insulin and always treatable with insulin as long as it is administered in time.

Mr. Carter's argument about not demeaning the parent's faith is moot. The child dies. There are clearly pediatric diseases that should be expected in all cases from prayer as the only treatment — diabetes and life-threatening infections like meningitis.

The Constitution notwithstanding, the state must "protect" minors from what could be called religious abuse.

BASIL J. PAPABARIS, M.D.
New Canaan, Conn., Jan. 31, 1996

The writer, on interest, is the parent of a child with diabetes.

To the Editor:

Stephen L. Carter (Op-Ed, Jan. 31) suggests that because Ian Lundman's parents acted out of sincere religious conviction they should not be held liable for the consequences of their actions. Yet surely he wouldn't make a similar argument on behalf of devout parents who bleed their child to death trying to rid him of demonic possession, or on behalf of a father who deflowers his pubescent daughter in the belief that he is thereby honoring certain religious tenets.

Parents' rights to the free exercise of religion are properly infringed when that practice itself infringes children's safety and well-being.

The fact that a right is "unalienable" does not mean that it is illimitable. Christian Science parents might believe that prayer is more powerful than insulin treatment against diabetes, but a state based on secular, rationalistic principle does not and may not endorse that belief.

Perhaps it is the notion of such a state that bothers Mr. Carter, as well as the notion that a child is more than an adjunct of a parent's conscience and cannot be sacrificed at the altar of parental convictions, religious or otherwise.

NONTAS KONSTANTAKIS
Princeton, N.J., Jan. 31, 1996

To the Editor:

While Stephen L. Carter delineates the church-state issue in "The Power of Prayer, Denied," he overlooks the parental rights issue. Eleven-year-old Ian Lundman died of diabetes in the custody of his mother, and under the care of his mother, stepfather and two Christian Science practitioners.

It appears the boy's biological father had no say in his medical care. Even after his parents' divorce, Ian's family still included his father. Is the father's religion irrelevant? (Rev.) ANTHONY P. JOHNSON
Long Branch, N.J., Jan. 31, 1996

To the Editor:

Stephen L. Carter is wrong to imply that those who believe in the healing power of prayer should support the Christian Science parents who prayed for their dying son rather than provide medical treatment.

I see proof to the contrary every Saturday morning in my synagogue, when time is set aside for congregants to approach the Torah scroll and have a special prayer said for the recovery of a sick relative or friend.

What I always find most interesting (and moving) is seeing the many medical doctors standing in line, waiting their turn to offer their prayers. Prayer and medicine are not mutually exclusive. Both are often needed to preserve our health and that of our children.

JOSEPH C. KAPLAN
New York, Jan. 31, 1996

Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Where Beauty Stops

KIBUYE, RWANDA

Nothing quite prepares you for the beauty of Kibuye. The tiny Rwandan village is nestled on a terraced hillside overlooking Lake Kivu, the huge volcanic lake in the heart of Central Africa. There are streams and waterfalls coursing through the hills. Not far from here, among the cloud-shrouded volcanoes, Dian Fossey researched "Gorillas in the Mist." On a promontory jutting into the lake is a large Catholic church built of stone, surrounded by tall banana trees.

And that is where the beauty stops. Because just behind the church there is a deep hole and down in it are five members of Physicians for Human Rights, exhuming a mass grave — one of dozens that scar the Rwandan landscape from the fever of genocide that broke out here in April 1994. Thousands of Tutsi and moderate Hutu villagers had come to the church thinking this was God's house and that it would protect them from rampaging Hutu extremists. It did not. They were slaughtered between the pews, hacked to death with machetes in the reflection of the stained-glass windows and then buried beneath the banana trees.

Their bodies have long since decomposed, but relatives can sometimes identify family members from clothing fragments still on the skeletons. Some of the bones speak for themselves, like the pair of hands that were found sliced in a straight line along the knuckles. The victim must have been holding up his hands, trying to shield his face, when a

The dilemma of war crimes in Rwanda.

machete was brought down on him with enormous force. Some 4,000 people were murdered in this spot alone — 500,000 in all Rwanda.

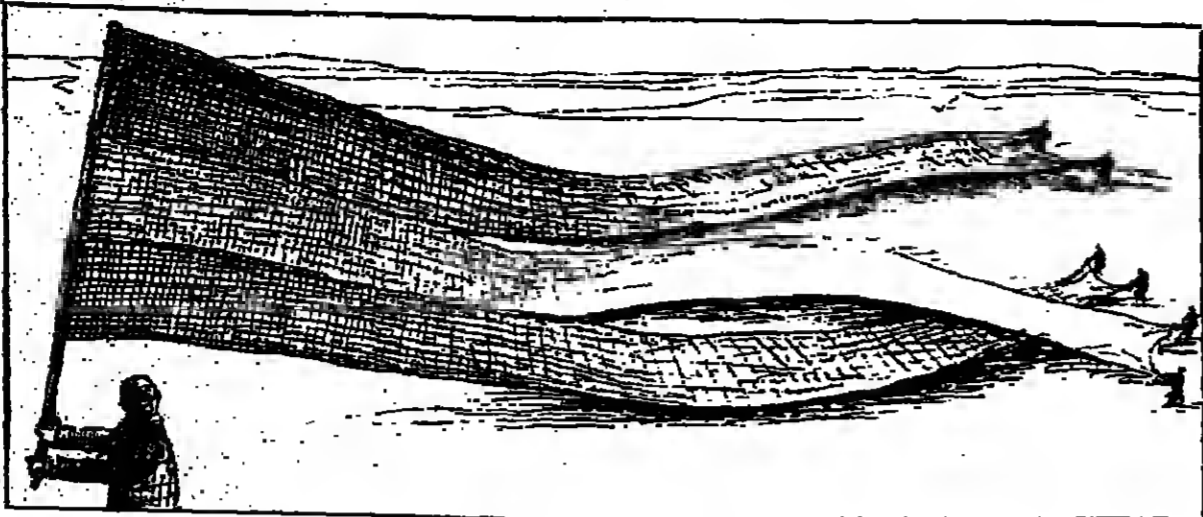
This dig is part of a massive effort by the U.N.'s International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to track down the perpetrators of the Rwanda genocide. There are 35 investigators, and 10 prosecutors, collecting witness testimony and forensic evidence to convict the leaders of this massacre. Eight have been indicted so far.

But can such a tribunal really make a difference? In talking to the villagers here who survived the massacre, it is clear that while they want justice, they want it now. They still see murderers walking free. But the war crimes tribunal is laboriously slow. It needs to build an air-tight case according to international law. The villagers want an eye for an eye. The tribunal wants habeas corpus. There is a misfit.

Moreover, the whole purpose of a war crimes tribunal is to assign individual guilt for the genocide, so that people here won't assign collective guilt, so that every Tutsi won't treat every Hutu as a mass murderer. But there are so many individuals involved. I visited the women's prison in the Rwandan capital, Kigali. As you enter the large courtyard some 400 Rwandan women, many with suckling babies at their breasts, are huddled in small groups along the walls, their heads shaved. They range from grandmothers to teenagers. Many of them are knitting, with balls of brightly colored yarn spooled at their feet. It could be a village scene from anywhere in Rwanda — except that most of these women are accused of genocide. Many are accused of murdering other women and their children with machetes. These are not killers in jackboots or maniacs with long-range artillery. These are mothers.

If you start prosecuting war crimes in such a tribal conflict, in which so many people are involved, where do you stop? But if you don't do it, and known mass murderers go free, how will it stop? It's a second question that leads me to conclude that you have to go through this exercise, even if it means that only the 200 lead perpetrators are caught, tried and convicted. It is critical that people here see that you cannot just kill with impunity — that someone is watching.

"Killing with impunity has been part of the tradition in this country," said Kabera Asiel, Governor of Kibuye. "No one ever regrets. They only want to kill again. We have to eradicate this culture of impunity." That culture ran so deeply here that when the Hutu majority first started massacring Tutsi, the Hutu-run Rwandan television showed some of the massacres on the evening news. It never occurred to anyone that the TV film might become evidence in a war crimes tribunal.



Terms of Engagement

By Strobe Talbott

Over the past five years, the United States policy of steady engagement with Russia has paid benefits to the American people. With our help, the Russians have dismantled thousands of nuclear warheads and rocket launchers. Russian troops, having withdrawn from Germany and the Baltic states, are serving alongside their NATO counterparts in Bosnia. The United States is now the largest foreign investor in Russia, and bilateral trade has nearly tripled in the past three years.

When Secretary of State Warren Christopher meets with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny M. Primakov in Helsinki this week, he will stress America's determination to preserve and, where possible, to deepen and broaden these accomplishments. He will also discuss some issues on which we have differences, such as Russia's intention to sell nuclear reactors to Iran.

The meeting will take place against the backdrop of troubling trends, as Russia's June presidential election approaches. Communists and ultra-nationalists, tapping into fear of the future and nostalgia for the past, are riding high in the polls and in the Parliament. Democrats and centrists are divided. An embattled President Boris Yeltsin, poised to announce his campaign for reelection, has dismissed a number of prominent reformers.

Even when the direction of Russian politics is uncertain, the fundamentals of American policy remain clear and consistent: We support democracy. It is not our responsibility to choose Russia's leader.

Strobe Talbott is Deputy Secretary of State.

ers. It never was. The Russian people now have the power to do that themselves.

We believe that the enfranchisement of Russian citizens will, if sustained, be good for their country and for the world. The impressive voter turnout in December's parliamentary elections suggests that the Russian people are getting used to choosing their leaders. The Russian media, through their coverage of the devastating use of force in Chechnya, have demonstrated that they cherish their new independence.

Freedom of choice and speech will

It is not our role to choose Russia's leaders.

help move Russia toward the rule of law and the consolidation of a civil society. As President Clinton has repeatedly stressed, democracies are more likely to be reliable partners in trade and diplomacy, and more likely to pursue foreign and defense policies that are compatible with United States interests.

We will advance those interests in the short term as well as the long by giving priority to three objectives:

Nuclear security. We will press for implementation of arms control agreements that enhance international security and reduce levels of lethal weaponry left over from the superpower rivalry. Now that the Senate has ratified Start II, President Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor S. Chernomyrdin and Foreign Minister Primakov have vowed to intensify their effort for ratification by the Parliament. Meanwhile, we will look for new ways to control dangerous fissile material and enhance the

safety of reactors at a summit meeting in Moscow in April.

An undivided Europe. Russia has yet to comply fully with the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty. We are working hard with Russia and the other treaty signatories to resolve this problem so that it no longer casts a cloud over a broad range of mutually reinforcing European security arrangements. They include an expanding NATO-Russia relationship as NATO takes in new members; an enhanced role for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and increased practical cooperation between NATO and the former members of the Warsaw Pact, through the Partnership for Peace.

Peace and independence. Russia is stepping up its call for economic and political integration among the former Soviet republics. In Eurasia, as in other parts of the world, we oppose coercion and intimidation of neighboring states. We will endorse regional cooperation only so long as it is truly and totally voluntary and only if it opens doors to the outside world.

That sort of integration is our overarching aspiration for a democratic Russia and the other new independent states. It is in our interests — and theirs — that they join, as soon and as fully as possible, the growing community of market democracies. But the pace of their integration into the West will depend on the pace of their reforms and on their adherence to international norms.

These terms of engagement have undergirded Administration policy for the past three years. They have already furthered vital and enduring American interests. They will continue to serve the United States well in the suspenseful months — and years — ahead.

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

Playing the Kid Card

MANCHESTER, N.H.

Pat Buchanan looks alarmingly cuddly in his new ad.

This is a man who cleaved so rigidly to blue-suit-white-shirt-red-tie that "Crossfire" once rejected the idea of dress-down Fridays because, as a producer put it, "What would Pat wear?" (His old Adam Smith tie?)

But in his commercial, the faux populist sports a fuzzy ski sweater (albeit with dress shoes and black socks) and has kids propped all around him. "The future of America belongs to our children," he says, and the number of kids staring at the camera multiplies exponentially as the frame enlarges.

Asked on the trail whether the kids were related or merely retained for the occasion, Mr. Buchanan said they were nieces and nephews. "But don't ask me to remember all their names," he said, laughing.

Politicians, like W.C. Fields, have always forced themselves to share the screen with children and dogs. (Cats don't test well.) George Bush warmed up his image in '88 when he lifted up his blond granddaughter in an ad, adding a touch of Ralph Lauren to Willie Horton.

But this year kids are definitely the hot campaign accessory. In his State of the Union speech, President Clinton — in perfect marketing synergy with the conservative ideas espoused in "It Takes a Village" — used the word "children" 37 times, and variations of "child" seven times. In his tired response, Bob Dole was only able to muster nine variations of "child."

Mr. Clinton was so eager to purloin Republican issues like family values, he got a little carried away.

"For the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age," he said proudly, "there is not a single Russian missile pointed at America's children." But they never were pointed at America's children. The chilling thing about the nuclear danger was that children were "collateral damage."

The President-as-Teen-Ager has been trying to morph into the Good Father. Nina Burleigh reports in *George* magazine that this image was devised by feminist writer Naomi Wolf, who is married to White House speechwriter David Shipley. Ms. Wolf was recruited by the triangulating Dick Morris to help woo straying female voters.

She proposed in one memo that Mr. Clinton be portrayed as "the comforting authority figure who builds and then defends the family

home" and suggested an ad where a bulldozer representing Republican proposals attacks the house where kids are sleeping.

If Mr. Clinton turns into the Good Father, then Mr. Dole turns into the Grumpy Grandfather. The Dole camp is fighting this generational bump by playing the kiddie card more vigorously.

Mari Maseng Will, the communications director, described Mr. Dole's new message in New Hampshire: "We need to return to the America we thought about as children, with its basic values, so that we will have a better America to leave

The 'Romper Room' strategy.

to our children."

Politicians, busy paring back Federal programs that help poor children, find it useful to nobly intone about the future of America's children. Some of the candidates rhapsodizing about kids have spent more time with policy papers in their offices than with children at the mall.

Richard Ben Cramer wrote about how Mr. Dole's daughter from his first marriage, Robin, had to leave her father a memo and wait several days before getting permission to have her ears pierced.

Michael Kinsley, the editor of *Micromagazine's* new on-line magazine, says that politicians should not have to fake populism.

"This is a group of narrowly focused, professional politicians who have to act like they spend their time at the bowling alley with the kids," he said. "All because this is a time in political history when merely wishing to devote your life to the good of the nation is not sufficient."

Alex Castellanos, a media adviser to Phil Gramm, agrees that "politicians are so hated now, if they talk about kids, it's a way of saying, 'Hey, I am like you. We care about the same things.'" He says it's also a good way to court yuppie suburban independent swing voters. "Kids are the biggest things in their lives."

Who's kidding who? Everybody's kidding everybody. People who start out exploiting children politically, may end up acting like children politically.

Anonymous? Not Me.

By Patricia Marx

If you didn't write "Primary Colors," then why are you denying it on TV so much?" is the most frequently asked question in Washington, these days.

This is the new novel whose plot distinctly resembles the 1992 Clinton campaign. The book was signed Anonymous, the author with the very, very airbrushed jacket photo.

A few suspects are easily ruled out. George Stephanopoulos, the model for the narrator, has spent too much of his life instructing people where to put the o's and u's in his own last name for him to pick a hard-to-spell pen name like "Anonymous." James Carville and Mary Matalin would have included cute back and forth sparring. Paul Begala is anonymous to most people, so that's a giveaway. Chelsea Clinton has too much homework. Salman Rushdie likes to be on television too much to write a book sub rosa. J. Edgar Hoover is dead.

I hate to put an end to the parlor games, but here's my confession. I wrote "Primary Colors."

Why? Frankly, I was bitter. When

Patricia Marx is writing a TV comedy for HBO set in the White House kitchen.

I was not given the top job at the travel office, I vowed revenge. Why did I choose a pseudonym? My agent informed me that more people would buy a book from Anonymous than from Patty Marx.

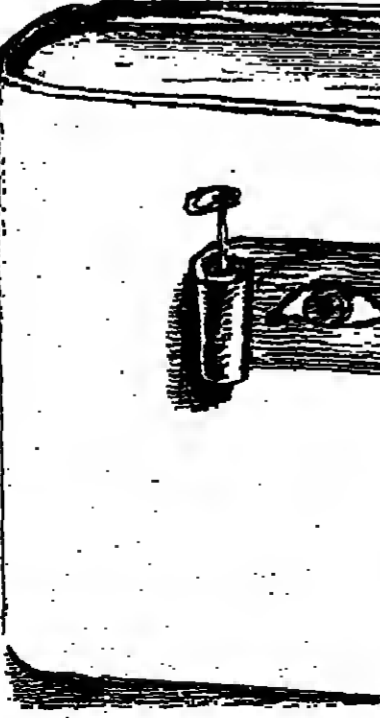
Where did I, a complete outsider to politics, get my information? I found it in a cartoon on a table in the White House. Why did I choose to reveal my identity now? Have you ever tried to cash a check made out to "Anonymous?"

By the way, I am the same Anonymous who recently donated \$15 million to the New York Public Library. It was also my idea to call Hillary Rodham Clinton's book "It Takes a Village." She wanted to call it "Doo! Blame Me." I am J. D. Seizinger, too.

Skeptics may think me an unlikely author of such a knowing political satire. But consider this: The words "primary colors" include all of the letters in my first name except "i" and all of the letters in my last name except "x"! The book is set in Washington; I was born just 110 miles from Washington! The book is about the friends of Bill; you can't believe how many of my friends are named Bill! The word "color" was spelled without a "u," which means the author is not English; I am not English! The book costs \$24; I have \$24! Henry Burton, the Stephanopoulos-like narrator, had a secretary named Lincoln; I had a Lincoln Town Car named Henry! The coincidences do not end there.

O.K., O.K., I'll take credit for 'Primary Colors.'

What's next for me? I'm running for President. I have an idea for a flatware tax.



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ECONOMY

Having Gotten the Part, Bronfman Plays the Mogul

Can Seagram heir put the dazzle back into MCA?

By GERALDINE FABRIKANT and BERNARD WEINRAUB

LESS than three weeks ago, 80 top executives of MCA Inc. were ordered to show up at a hotel in downtown Los Angeles for an all-day meeting with their new boss, Edgar Bronfman Jr., chief executive of the Seagram Company. The invitation had only one request: wear jeans.

With his troops seated around him in a huge circle, Mr. Bronfman got right to the point. He declared that he wanted to redesign MCA from top to bottom to cut costs and increase profits. Seagram, he said, was in this for the long haul; it believed in buying, not selling, companies. And he appealed to the divisions, which had a long history of squabbling, to cooperate more closely. Employees had already gotten a taste of the new openness when MCA had its first Christmas party in memory, a boisterous celebration on a sound stage at Universal Pictures, MCA's movie division.

Mr. Bronfman's style and message could not have been more different from the atmosphere at the old MCA, before Seagram acquired an 80 percent stake last June from the Matsushita Electric Industrial Company of Japan for \$5.7 billion. Under the 50-year reign of its 82-

year-old patriarch, Lew R. Wasserman, MCA had gained a reputation as the austere antithesis of Hollywood glitz. Run by men in conservative suits, it was known for its rigid chain of command, its competing fiefs, its intimidating corporate culture and a cost-consciousness so deeply embedded that Mr. Wasserman himself regularly checked overtime claims.

"We are going to transform MCA," Mr. Bronfman said in an interview. "What we bought here was a series of opportunities."

Lanky and almost deliberately casual, Mr. Bronfman sat on a black leather sofa in his temporary office at MCA's headquarters in a black-glass tower in Universal City. Beside him sat Ron Meyer, a former top Hollywood agent who is Mr. Bronfman's No. 2 and who has been given the task of overhauling MCA.

As Mr. Bronfman talked, bulldozers could be seen through his wall-sized picture window flattening the terrain for a "Jurassic Park" attraction at the company's theme park below. "What I like most about the entertainment business is that it provides Seagram with an opportunity to invest heavily in North America as an asset base and to build a global franchise for a company that was perhaps the most parochial of the entertainment companies," Mr. Bronfman said.

But while his vows to rejuvenate MCA have won praise in the entertainment industry, some media experts and people close to the sprawling company — which in addition to Universal Pictures owns Universal Television, theme parks in Florida and California, a record division and a book company — wonder if the heir to the Canadian beverage empire has what it takes.

They applaud his efforts to make MCA an exciting place to work and do business again, after a decade in which its studio had gained a reputation in Hollywood as inflexible and uninspiring. But even his supporters worry that Mr. Bronfman, who has spent the last decade running Seagram, has appointed too many executives as inexperienced as he is at managing a media company — especially one as large as MCA, with 15,000 employees and annual revenues of roughly \$5 billion. And the new team is taking command while the industry is reeled with change and its main players are making multimillion-dollar bets on new businesses from network television to satellites.

Mr. Bronfman's choice for president of MCA raised eyebrows early on. Mr. Meyer, one of a triumvirate of talent agents who managed the Creative Artists Agency, a 400-person firm, was widely admired in Hollywood, but was considered by some to be lacking the broad management background required by his day-to-day responsibilities at MCA. Mr. Meyer then surprised the movie community by appointing a close friend with even less first-hand knowledge of the business: Howard Weitzman, a well-known trial lawyer, as executive vice president for corporate operations.

In addition, Mr. Meyer brought in his former Creative Artists colleague, Sanford R. Climan, as executive vice president.

The new team's greenness has made it slow to settle on an agenda. For months, it has been hunkered down at MCA's headquarters, communicating its objectives either to the press or to MCA's managers. And while some executives close to the company say they find the atmosphere liberating, they are waiting to hear specifics of Mr. Bronfman's vision. "We want to know what the plan is," one MCA executive said, on the condition of anonymity. "Creating a company that is 'talent friendly' is a tactic. It is not a strategy."

Indeed, investor unease is one reason why Seagram's stock has risen only 15 percent since the deal was first reported last April. In the same period, the broader market jumped 27 percent.

Mr. Bronfman's uphill battle with skeptics is all the steeper because he has to overcome questions about motivation. His father's ranking at No. 19 on the Forbes 400 list of America's wealthiest people — with a fortune estimated at \$2.7 billion — makes it difficult for him to escape the public perception that he is a rich man who has bought the ultimate toy. His associates say there is no doubt Mr. Bronfman is enthralled by the entertainment business. But, they argue, he is a quick study and struck a savvy deal with Matsushita.

Mr. Bronfman has already converted some skeptics. Bill Simon, who heads the entertainment-industry division of Korn Ferry International, an executive recruiting firm, came around after hearing Hollywood's newest mogul speak at a recent television-industry convention. "I thought he was just a rich guy," Mr. Simon said. "But he has a clue" about how the business works.

Mr. Bronfman also brings a respectable, though not stellar, corporate reputation to MCA, with analysts rating his performance at Seagram from fair to good. But running an entertainment conglomerate is different from handling the family liquor business. While at Seagram he could turn to his father and other relatives for support, at MCA he remains dependent on his lieutenants and professional experts. "There is certainly the sounding-board issue," said Harold Vogel, an analyst who follows Seagram for Cowen & Company, a New York investment firm. "Who will ask the smart questions?"

To make the challenge tougher, Mr. Bronfman splits his time between Seagram's beverage operations and MCA, commuting between a rented home in Malibu and a town house in New York, where the parent company has its headquarters. That, while he competes against seasoned pros like Rupert Murdoch, chairman of the News Corporation, and Michael D. Eisner, chairman of the Walt Disney Company.

Mr. Bronfman brushes aside such concerns, saying he has "a management team that is working 24 hours a



Edgar Bronfman Jr., right, with Ron Meyer.

day." While he volunteered few details, he said the essence of his strategy was to build up each of MCA's core businesses of film, television, music, theme parks and books without necessarily buying television stations or undertaking ambitious forays into distribution. "We want to be a successful content provider and content creator," Mr. Bronfman said. "We hope we can attract talent, motivate better and make better programming."

More thrills are on the way. MCA is constructing a second park in Orlando, Fla., which could double the number of Universal's visitors in that state to 14 million by 1999. It also has plans for its first foreign park, in Osaka, Japan.

Mr. Bronfman also said he hoped to emulate Disney by making the most of the name recognition of Universal. "I don't think Universal is nearly as strong a brand as it can be," he added, leaning forward. "Disney has used its theme parks to create a brand for the company that is used for 1,000 different things."

Mr. Bronfman's approach is hardly revolutionary. His emphasis on content is reminiscent of Viacom's determination to stay in programming rather than invest in worldwide distribution. And his obsession with the MCA franchise echoes Mr. Eisner's determination to "get every squeeze out of the pig," as Jeffrey Logsdon, a media analyst at the Seidler Group in Los Angeles, described Disney's marketing prowess.

Trouble is, MCA lacks Disney's trove of animated characters that lead themselves to cross-pollination among divisions. And if all Mr. Bronfman aspires to do is out-Disney the Lion King itself, there is the real question of why shareholders should bet on Seagram's shares. Mr. Vogel, the Cowen & Company analyst, said that investors were already paying 9.2 times Seagram's cash flow for its shares, the same multiple that Disney fetches. While MCA has untapped assets, Disney has a better track record.

Though both Mr. Bronfman and Mr. Meyer declined to comment directly on their predecessors' performance, they clearly believe they have to start by ministering to the balkanized company they inherited from Mr. Wasserman and his president, Sidney L. Sheinberg. Mr. Sheinberg declined to comment and Mr. Wasserman did not return phone calls.

That discord cost MCA dearly at times. In 1987, for example, even though the company's movie division wanted to strike a deal with Castle Rock Pictures, an independent film and television producer, the MCA television division refused to accede to a Castle Rock request for lower distribution fees, executives familiar with the talks said. Its refusal to budge — even though it was desperate for programming — drove Castle Rock into the arms of a rival, Columbia Pictures, for which it subsequently produced the smash television comedy series "Seinfeld."

Mr. Bronfman clearly does not want such opportunities squandered on his watch, particularly at the troubled film and television business, which holds the greatest potential for explosive growth in sales and profits. The latest results available for MCA, reflecting the nine months that ended on Sept. 30, show what a few hits can do for the bottom line. Helped by "Apollo 13," "Babe" and "Casper," film and television production produced \$227 million in cash flow — 29 percent more than

those operations pulled in for all of 1994. And margins still lag those of other Hollywood studios.

Keeping Universal Pictures primed with hits is the first priority of Mr. Meyer, a man with a golden Rolodex. In recent weeks, he and Casey Silver, chairman of MCA's motion picture group, have made deals with Jersey Films, co-owned by the actor Danny DeVito; with Imagine Entertainment, run by the producer Brian Grazer and the director Ron Howard; with the directors David Zucker and Jerry Zucker; with the director John Singleton; with the actor Sylvester Stallone; and with the production company run by the actress Demi Moore, who like Mr. Stallone is a former client of Mr. Meyer at Creative Artists.

The risks are large. Celebrity deals that go flat can cost studios dearly. Hollywood has been known to take advantage of new teams that are eager to get rolling and are willing to spend money for quick results. The recent announcement of a deal worth a reported \$60 million with Mr. Stallone caught Hollywood's attention because his last few pictures have flopped. Mr. Bronfman said, however, that the terms were less generous than most people supposed.

The sense of urgency to rebuild MCA's film roster has only increased since Universal Pictures lost its prime star and best creative mind, Steven Spielberg, the producer and director of "Jurassic Park" fame. He joined Jeffrey Katzenberg, a prominent production executive, and the David Geffen, the record entrepreneur, to form DreamWorks SKG, a competing entertainment company, last year.

To really succeed, Mr. Meyer needs to find similar hits that can make money for other divisions by generating everything from theme-park rides to T-shirt logos. But he says he won't simply increase market share by churning out movies, as Paramount tried unsuccessfully last year. "It's not about being No. 1 in box-office gross," Mr. Meyer said. "It is about profitability."

Television, in particular, needs an overhaul. Cash flow has dwindled from about \$30 million in 1992 to about \$7 million last year.

While it has had a few successful hour-long shows like "Murder, She Wrote" and "Magnum, P.I.," MCA has failed to concoct the sort of half-hour comedy hits, like "Seinfeld" or "Friends," that dominate television. Mr. Bronfman vows to close that gap.

To get things moving, he has brought in Gregory Meidel, former head of sales for Fox Television. Though Mr. Meidel had never overseen television production, a number of television executives at rival companies note that his experience in selling programming to stations on behalf of the producers Steven Bochco and Jim Brooks makes him familiar with what audiences want to see in various time slots.

The archetypal salesman, Mr. Meidel, a tall and tanned 42-year-old, is already poring over scripts and plotting MCA's comeback.

The company's decision not to expand into distribution may cost it dearly. This month, the Walt Disney Company takes control of Capital Cities/ABC and becomes the world's largest entertainment conglomerate. Disney is already planning to produce some programming for ABC.

"There are areas that we could get squeezed out of," Mr. Meyer conceded.

Although the studio grabs most of the spotlight, Mr. Bronfman is by some accounts more intrigued by the music division, given his own artistic stirrings. He wrote songs in the 1970's (Dionne Warwick recorded one called "Whisper in the Dark") and recently composed another one for his new wife. He even has a hit in Japan on the Sony label that he wrote with a colleague, entitled "To Love You More."

MCA's record division did exceptionally well in 1994, and last year it contributed a respectable \$96 million in cash flow in the first nine months on revenue of \$929 million.

Just two weeks ago, Mr. Bronfman showed his commitment to MCA Music's new chief executive, Doug Morris, by authorizing him to acquire half of Interscope Records, best known for its gangsta rap artists, for about \$200 million. The decision came as a surprise because it could embroil MCA in the debate with politicians and parents' groups over violent and sexual lyrics. To avoid the stigma, MCA is reportedly planning to withhold any Interscope albums it considers too controversial.

The purchase is also risky, in the view of Emanuel Gerard, a partner with the New York investment firm of Gerard Klauer Mattison & Company, because Interscope has yet to turn a profit and has no inventory of music it can reissue to assure profits. Moreover, the way the deal was negotiated raised further questions about Mr. Bronfman's reliance on others. People in the industry say his old friend Mr. Geffen is helping him complete the deal. (Mr. Geffen denies that he is playing a role.)

Mr. Bronfman's decision to expand the company's profitable theme park business was a more understandable move. Though its revenues are one-third those of the music division, it has been producing more in cash flow. In the latest nine months, it contributed \$105 million in cash flow — 36 percent of the parks' revenues.

Opening new parks and expanding the number of attractions devours capital, one reason why Mr. Bronfman is building the new park in Osaka, Japan, and the \$2 billion Florida project as joint ventures with the Rank Organization of Britain. Nonetheless, this is one area where he expects to put his experience at Seagram to good use, especially his familiarity with the Japanese consumer. "We just don't have an international presence," he said. But "Seagram does."

He and his associates are less definite about MCA's publishing activities and its chain of 500 Spencer gift stores. Their collective margins have been consistent enough, but together they contributed only \$33 million in cash flow on sales of \$378 million in the latest nine-month period, less than the other three business clusters. Ultimately, Mr. Bronfman must decide whether to sell, or expand, the Puma book publishing division, whose clients include Tom Clancy and Robin Cook.

While MCA struggles to build revenues, it is also fighting to tame costs.

Mr. Bronfman and Mr. Meyer have begun integrating some of the Seagram and MCA corporate staffs. And, without providing much supporting detail, Seagram also recorded a \$290 million restructuring charge last fall. Such charges have become popular as companies use them to load various future costs into one bitter pill. Prepaying those expenses removes a drag and makes future earnings look healthier.

The unexpected writeoff concerned Robert Leininger, an analyst who follows Seagram for Gabelli & Company, that Seagram might be playing "accounting games." Mr. Bronfman countered that "accountants don't let you do that." But he declined to detail the writeoff. "We don't want our employees to read about our plans in the newspapers," he said.

Bringing in someone like Frank J. Biondi Jr. — Viacom's recently ousted chief executive — could buy the newcomers even more time. Mr. Bronfman and Mr. Biondi had lunch last week, prompting rumors that Mr. Biondi might join the company. Mr. Bronfman declined to comment, except to say that "the lunch was delicious."

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS IN LOCAL CURRENCY

Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	Index	YTD % Chg.
Australia	199.13	4.2	5	4.8	11	3.82	175.45	3.3
Austria	187.32	1.6	17	7.3	9	1.49	144.65	11.5
Belgium	215.35	3.5	7	3.0	16	3.22	182.35	7.0
Brazil	170.25	9.5	1	23.4	1	1.44	306.55	24.2
Britain	231.18	2.4	13	0.3	20	4.12	225.66	2.5
Canada	157.18	2.8	12	5.9	10	2.40	156.38	6.7
Denmark	299.20	0.2	26	3.6	14	1.40	234.05	7.5
Finland	185.52	5.5	3	-0.8	24	1.79	177.54	4.1
France	186.38	3.0	11	3.9	13	3.04	149.36	8.5
Germany	170.45	1.3	20	4.1	12	1.82	131.79	8.2
Hong Kong	447.68	3.7	6	15.5	3	3.19	444.40	15.5
Ireland	258.12	1.2	21	1.0	17	3.31	231.97	3.3
Italy	79.82	6.6	2	8.0	7	1.59	93.94	7.6
Japan	152.71	1.0	22	-1.4	25	0.74	102.98	1.9
Malaysia	520.84	1.8	16	7.4	8	1.63	512.01	7.9
Mexico	1,211.63	0.7	24	17.0	2	1.42	9,809.67	12.4
Netherlands	274.73	0.8	23	0.7	19	3.13	208.83	4.7
New Zealand	80.31	3.5	8	0.8	18	4.61	63.02	-2.8
Norway	230.41	2.1	15	-0.4	22	2.06	203.00	2.4
Singapore	458.61	3.3	10	12.6	6	1.34	299.68	12.9
South Africa	437.76	0.4	25	13.6	5	3.37	349.31	13.8
Spain	165.40	1.6	18	0.1	21	3.87	156.84	3.3
Sweden	310.60	5.0	4	-0.5	23	1.88	319.64	-4.4
Switzerland	222.56	1.3	19	-5.7	26	1.58	168.18	0.1
Thailand	192.03	3.5	9	14.1	4	1.98	188.82	14.8
United States	259.08	2.3	14	3.1	15	2.20	259.08	3.1

COMPOSITE INDICES

Region	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	Index	YTD % Chg.
Europe	203.06	2.4		1.1		2.98	177.52	4.5
Pacific Basin	168.28	1.5		0.6		1.16	115.10	3.3
Europe/Pacific	181.50	1.9		0.8		2.01	138.80	3.9
World	206.64	2.1		2.2		2.11	176.63	3.8

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close © 1996 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's

CURRENCIES

Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	106.38	106.60	-0.21	99.85
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.4815	1.4905	-0.57	1.5267
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3758	1.3819	-0.41	1.4010
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.5252	1.5037	+1.43	1.5635

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets, exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

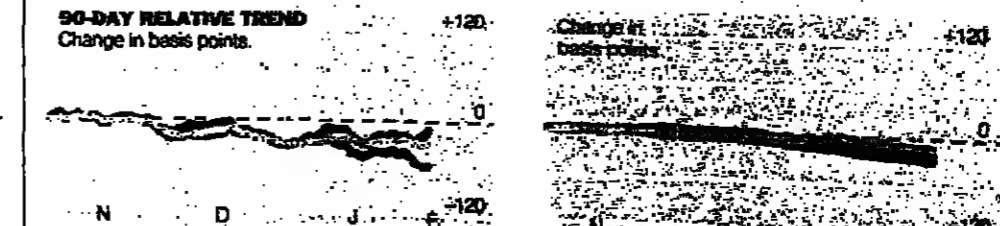
Jan. 29-Feb. 2: Stocks Surge but Bonds Slump After the Fed Cuts Interest Rates

Category	Index	Change
DOMESTIC EQUITIES		
Broad market S. & P. 500 index	635.85	Up 2.29%
Blue chips Dow 30 industrials	5,373.99	Up 1.94%
Small capitalization Russell 2000 index	317.72	Up 2.09%
DOMESTIC BONDS		
Treasuries Ryan Labs. Total Return	192.44	Up 0.06%
Municipals Bond Buyer index	121.25	Up 0.65%
Corporates Merrill Lynch Master index	820.69	Unchanged
AROUND THE WORLD		
European stocks F.T.-Actuaries Europe	203.06	Up 2.35%
Asian stocks F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	166.28	Up 1.45%
Gold New York cash price	\$414.70	Up 2.19%



YIELDS

Category	Yield	Change
BONDS		
Long bonds	6.16%	Up 12 basis pts.
30-year Treasuries	6.16%	Up 12 basis pts.
Short bonds	4.90%	Down 13 basis pts.
2-year Treausuries	4.90%	Down 13 basis pts.
Municipals Bond Buyer index	5.57%	Down 6 basis pts.
OTHER INVESTMENTS		
Money market funds	5.01%	Bank fund average Down 2 basis pts.
Bank C.D.'s	4.81%	1-year small savers Down 3 basis pts.
Stocks	2.25%	S. & P. 500 dividend yield Down 4 b.p.



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

The silent era: A history of cinema in the Holy Land

A new book by Hillel Tryster explores the first moments that Palestine was captured on film. Geoffrey Wigoder reports

The silent film era in the Yishuv produced documentaries and newsreels, a two-reel comedy and a feature, all made primarily for export. Much of it is the story of a few stubborn pioneers fighting for the funds to make their films. And the source of that funding was usually the National Institutions (Jewish National Fund and Keren Hayesod), which had very strong ideas on the contents.

This is the background to Hillel Tryster's painstaking research *Israel before Israel: Silent Cinema in the Holy Land*, published by the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive (of the Hebrew University and Central Zionist Archives).

The earliest films (and many of the later ones) were travelogues using the new marvel of cinematography to bring the Holy Land to viewers throughout the western world. One of them, a 1912 five-reeler called *From the Manger to the Cross*, was still in general distribution until the mid-1940s and was being shown in churches down to the 1960s.

At a very early stage political Zionism realized the cinema's propaganda potential. The hour-long documentary (including a section on the Bezalel School featuring Boris Schatz), shot by Murray Rosenberg of England, was shown at the 1911 Zionist Congress in Basel.

After World War I the film, usually accompanied by a lecture, was shown widely. The JNF films gained a reputation for heavy-handedness (one of them had a plot with the dramatic climax of a US contributor, cabling \$100,000 to the JNF; and an internal memo asked, "Do we have to photograph every cow on JNF land from the front, rear and side?").

Nevertheless, they were influential in projecting the positive image of the new Jew in the Land of Israel, which was received with



Julian W. Orde's 1899 frame, above, reveals what is assumed to be Alfred Dreyfus (second from right) being walked in the prison yard in Rennes by a jailer; (right, from top): charred remains of Torah scrolls are examined after the 1929 riots; rival shoe brands enter the boxing ring in an animated 1930s commercial for Keter-Yitzhak Hoz shoes; a scene from the film 'Palestinian Awakening' shows the guard Zvi Nisanov of Ein Harod.



pride throughout the Diaspora.

Tryster searched meticulously for documentation of this period and viewed whatever managed to survive. The hero of his story is Ya'akov Ben-Dor, who began his film career the day British general Lord Allenby entered Jerusalem and continued for many years, constantly photographing throughout the 1920s.

However, Revisionist leader Vladimir Jabotinsky — who admired him as an artist — was scathing in his reaction to Ben-Dor's proposal for a longer documentary. "Most of Mr. Ben-Dov's scheme is absolutely uninteresting and can only bore the audience. To show them for meters and meters the Ashkenazi and the Sephardi and the Bokharan and the Moroccan Jew would be a trial of patience."

"The same applies to the different settlements," Jabotinsky said. "After all, they are all alike, and people would be bored to death by being shown Rehovot after they have seen Rishon. The public dislikes geographical and ethno-

graphical shows without any plot to liven them up. The only successful form of film propaganda would be a great drama."

The other notable pioneers of the 1920s are the colorful dancer, painter and cinematographer Baruch Agadati; Nathan Axelrod, whose main contribution came with his newsreels in the sound era; Chaim Halachmi; and Yerushalayim Segal, who from the 1930s was the outstanding translator of foreign films into Hebrew.

Apart from the JNF, the other major financial source of the Zionist films was Keren Hayesod, which took a softer propaganda approach. Tryster describes in detail the development of the three documentaries it sponsored, intended to be shown in cinemas to accompany the main feature. "The best known of these films was *Springtime in Palestine*, whose idea originated with Hans Kohn, the noted historian, at that time a Keren Hayesod official in Jerusalem.

When it was completed, Henry Montor — who became the Jewish

world's whiz fundraiser — wrote to Kohn that "the new film is the most disreputable motion picture made in the past decade. Its photography is beneath contempt. Its story is absurd. The editing is that of a child. It may have been a masterpiece in 1890; today it is only fit for the trash basket."

"The Palestinians do not seem to have any conception of what is wanted by an American audience." The only two silent features made in Palestine were produced in the 1930s, by which time the rest of the world had long been making films in sound. The short, called *Vayehi Bymet*, was a comedy set during the Tel Aviv *adloyada* (Purim parade).

Its creator, Halachmi, describes in a letter how he raised the funding: "We received £15 as a loan and signed a promissory note. We signed another promissory note for £3. One friend gave us £1, another half a pound, until we accumulated £28, and with this we created our little 600-meter film."

The full-length feature film was *Oded Hanoded*, shot all over the

country, with its desert scenes filmed in a Beduin encampment in Ramat Gan. One of the actors was Shimon Finkel, who was called on to ride a horse. In fact, he was filmed holding the reins while sitting on a barrel. The only country where the silent version was shown was Belgium. In the US, a pirated version was synchronized with sound, and it was this version that pulled in the crowds to Tel Aviv.

Tryster digs up many other films made during the silent era — some by foreign companies shooting in Palestine, others by amateurs from abroad, such as the indomitable Hazel Greenwald of Hadassah. He also includes a brief history of screenings and of cinemas in the country, starting with the showing in a Jerusalem hotel of a film of the Dreyfus Affair, which was the occasion for Eliezer Ben-Yehuda to coin his Hebrew word for cinema, *re'inoa*. This is just one of the many nuggets in Tryster's work, the value of which is enhanced by a wealth of well-chosen illustrations.

Gloomy mood in Hong Kong reflects dread of handover to China

A mood of pessimism is sweeping through Hong Kong as the anxiety of next year's handover of sovereignty to China strikes home.

Politicians have spoken of a difficult year ahead, and pollsters predict that up to 100,000 of the 5.7 million population could emigrate in the next 12 months to avoid the uncertainties of life under Chinese rule.

Confidence-building measures from Beijing could yet reverse the tide. But there are few signs that Chinese officials

are ready to acknowledge the problem, let alone take steps to counter what could develop into a crisis of confidence.

Britain can do little to instill faith in the future of a territory which it has run for more than 150 years, but from which it must soon withdraw.

The latest evidence of dismay in the territory emerged from a survey of Hong Kong's young people.

Unlike the older generation, they have grown up with the idea that Britain will

leave Hong Kong on June 30 next year when China will recover sovereignty over its "lost territory."

This was set out in the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984, and has long been an accepted part of political life in Hong Kong.

Yet a poll of 1,660 people aged between 15 and 24 found that more than 40 percent wanted to emigrate before the Chinese flag is hoisted over their homeland.

Respondents were most concerned

about the lack of freedom and human rights under Beijing's rule, as well as unemployment, deterioration in public order, and corruption.

They feared, in other words, that Hong Kong would become more like China. Timothy Wong, organizer of the poll, was quoted as saying that young people were very familiar with what was going on in China.

"They have learned from the media about the many problems in China, in its economy and political system, and

human rights," he said. "Inevitably, they will ask themselves whether that will occur in Hong Kong after 1997."

The leaders of Hong Kong's main political parties are also gloomy about the prospects for the colony.

Martin Lee, leader of the Democrats, the party that fared best in September's legislative elections, said what happened in 1995 was not reassuring, citing suggestions by the Beijing-appointed Preliminary Working Committee that Hong Kong's Bill of Rights be weak-

ened, and a "provisional legislature" be set up in 1997 to replace the one elected under Governor Chris Patten's reforms.

Even Tsang Yok-sing, leader of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong, a pro-Beijing party, sounded gloomy.

A headmaster by profession, Tsang said: "We have a lot to do in schools, in education, to bring up the younger generation with a positive attitude which will work for the future of Hong Kong." (The Daily Telegraph)

Gulf war damage continues, from desert to dugongs

EARTHLY CONCERNS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Five years after the Gulf War has more or less allowed Kuwait and what happened there to fade into the background, most people seem to think the effects of that war have passed. But the damage to the environment there continues to have a real and tangible effect on the area.

First of all, almost all the carefully planted and tended gardens that once made Kuwait City a true oasis in the desert are gone — they were destroyed by neglect during the invasion and the occupation and later, even more permanently, by the weeks of exposure to the acrid smoke from the burning oil wells that hung mischievously over the city. As a result, outside temperatures on the streets of Kuwait City have risen appreciably.

In addition, and probably even more devastating, is the deterioration of the terrain around the city. Although the actual fires were put out in record time and the oil that gushed from them has been stopped, the areas where it did spill has turned into a wasteland.

Every depression where small winter pools once collected whenever there was even a bit of rain is now an oil-lined cesspool where any water that does collect is contaminated and no longer sustains desert flora or fauna. This continues to cause much loss of rare desert species.

The movement of untold numbers of tracked vehicles, such as tanks, in and around the city and throughout the country has also wreaked havoc on the fragile desert terrain and its ecosystems. While such damage is easily oblit-

erated after a couple of rainy seasons in areas where precipitation is higher, such damage may persist for years in the desert. There are places in North Africa, for instance, where the tracks and the depredations of the military vehicles of Rommel's desert corps and the British Armored Divisions are still easily seen.

In Kuwait, the damage to the seas along the coasts of the entire area is even worse than these other problems. Here the large amounts of oil that was deliberately allowed to enter the sea has caused the death or decimation of almost all the mussel beds in what was once an area famous for its natural pearls.

The catch of fish too is at an all-time low, and the large schools once harvested for food have almost all either diminished or disappeared. And no one has seen a dugong, that most rare of sea mammals, in the area of the Kuwaiti coast since the end of the war, when several dead or dying dugongs were reportedly washed ashore.

Bird life has also suffered. In addition to the many water birds killed outright, many others have avoided the area they once favored because of the easily available fish in shallow bays on which they feed.

Environmentalists cannot even estimate how long it may take to fix the damage that was done in such a short time, if it ever can be repaired. But whatever the outlook, a new convention is needed to outlaw such practices and to allow the perpetrators of such acts of war on the environment to be prosecuted as war criminals.

GAME TIME

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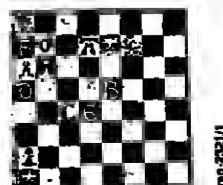
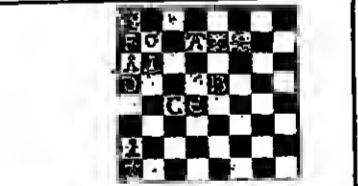
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1996

El Al not to offer shares in NY

Jerusalem Post Staff

EL AL will not offer shares on Wall Street, the Treasury decided, after an expert team it dispatched to New York concluded the market would not welcome the floatation, a Treasury spokesman said yesterday.

The team, headed by Government Companies' Authority Director Tamar Ben-David, returned from its visit to the US last week.

The decision not to sell shares in the American equity market comes nearly three years after Finance Minister Avraham Shohat decided not to offer the company's shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The indications are that the

market would only offer what the government seemed like, a low price for the national air carrier.

Observers believe that in addition to the fact that the industry worldwide is performing poorly, El Al's appeal to investors is hampered by its policy of observing Shabbat and its costly security standards.

With the prospects for an initial public offering all but gone, the Treasury would like to sell El Al to a strategic investor but, considering employee opposition to such a move, chances are very slim for any movement in that direction prior to this year's elections.

Shamrock in talks with Hapoalim to buy Ampal

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Shamrock group is negotiating with Bank Hapoalim to gain control of its New York subsidiary Ampal, a source close to the group confirmed yesterday.

Ampal - which invests in Israeli companies - is one of the non-financial companies Bank Hapoalim is required to sell by the end of the year, following the Brodet Committee's report on the banking sector's non-financial holdings.

A bill pending in the Knesset calls for the banks to cut their non-financial holdings to 25 percent or less by the end of the year.

A Bank Hapoalim spokesman refused to either confirm or deny that negotiations are taking place. Shamrock's representative in Israel, Micha Geiger, is expected to return from the US tomorrow.

Three other groups, including a consortium headed by Tel Aviv, are reportedly bidding for Ampal.

Arison is also a partner in the Claridge-Arison group - which is competing to purchase 20% of Bank Hapoalim.

Hapoalim announced plans to sell a portion of its holdings in the subsidiary two weeks ago.

The bank also announced plans to equalize the voting rights of Ampal.

Hapoalim owns 50.4% of Ampal's Class A stock and all of the company's outstanding common stock.

The common stock, which is not traded publicly, entitles Hapoalim to 50% of Ampal's voting rights, no matter how many Class A shares it owns.

The bank said it plans to equalize the voting rights of Ampal's common stock with those of Ampal class A shares.

As part of the proposal, the bank said it will seek compensation for the reduction in voting rights.

The Shamrock group is already invested here through its 22% holding in Koor Industries, which it acquired from Hevrat Haovdim last year.

Capital market sources forecast Shamrock, if it manages to acquire the company, may try to merge some of Ampal's activities - like its hotel and real estate holdings, with Koor's activities in the field.

Ampal's major investments include Ofir Holdings, which has a stake in Industrial Buildings, and some of Hamashbir Hamerazzi's real estate assets.

Other investments include the Moriah Hotel chain, Teledata and tourism businesses.

Koor cannot directly purchase Ampal's shares, because the Brodet Committee also recommended forbidding the banks to sell their non-financial holdings to the country's four largest conglomerates.

A Koor spokesman refused to comment.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fibi Switzerland, First International Bank's subsidiary in Switzerland, has purchased a 100-year-old building in the center of Zurich for Sfr 3.5 million.

The 100-sq.m. building has three floors, and the bank hopes to complete renovations during the next six months and move to its new premises in September. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Bank Discount will establish a credit line of \$5 million to the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan, the bank announced yesterday.

The agreement, which will be valid for 5 1/2 years, was designed to help finance the establishment of a new division of a hospital in Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan. In the past two years, the bank has financed the export of medicines from Israel to the Moslem republic in the former Soviet Union. Despite its geographic and cultural proximity to Iran, Turkmenistan is cautiously nurturing open ties with Israel. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Bezeq cutting prices on second phone lines: Bezeq wants everybody to have another phone line, and is cutting prices to encourage it. A marketing campaign, due to end on February 15, offers an additional phone line, including installation, for only NIS 295, instead of the full price of NIS 534.

Bezeq said the campaign allows any use for the additional phone line, including faxes and data transfer. The only condition is that the subscriber already have a phone line. The reduction in cost will be covered by Bezeq as part of its marketing budget.

There are currently 42 phone lines per 100 people; according to Bezeq director-general Yizhak Kaul, the company hopes this year to raise this to 50 per 100. *Judy Siegel*

Air India flights here hope to overfly Arabia

HAIM SHAPIRO

FLIGHTS between Israel and India will be overflying the Arabian peninsula within a year, said Air India deputy managing director M.P. Mascarenhas, who arrived here last week to welcome the Indian national airline's inaugural flight to Tel Aviv yesterday.

Mascarenhas said the flights were "long overdue" in view of the historical and other ties between the two countries. Not only are there 75,000 Israelis of Indian origin, but there are 12 million Indian Christians anxious to visit here, he said.

Air India is to operate two flights a week to Bombay, with 25

executive class and 181 economy-class seats on the Airbus A310 aircraft to be used for the flights.

Like El Al, which began flights to India in December 1993, Air India will circumnavigate the Arabian peninsula, resulting in a seven-and-a-half hour flight, about two hours longer than necessary.

Mascarenhas said Air India sent requests to several states in the peninsula to overfly their air space en route to Tel Aviv.

So far, he said, the airline had received no replies, but was hoping to receive positive ones within a year.

Plan approved to rebuild section of railway to Erez

HAIM SHAPIRO

TRANSPORT Minister Yisrael Kessar yesterday approved a plan to rebuild a section of railway to the Erez checkpoint, which will establish a direct freight line from Ashdod Port to the Gaza Strip. The section which must be rebuilt is an eight-kilometer stretch from Mavki'im, about five kilometers south of Ashkelon, to the Gaza Strip.

The cost is estimated at NIS 36 million, and the project is to be finished within a year.

According to Kessar, the establishment of the rail link will reduce the pressure on the Ashdod-Gaza highway and provide a more secure method of transferring goods.

The current freight load between the port and the Gaza Strip is about 1,000 tons a day, which can be transferred in two trains, he said.

Kessar did not reject the possibility of the train also being used to transport workers from Gaza into Israel.

Palestinian officials have long been debating the prospects for such a rail link, since while it may



Kessar: The rail line will reduce the pressure on the Ashdod-Gaza highway and provide a more secure method of transferring goods. (Brian Hendler)

hasten the establishment of industrial parks in the Gaza Strip, it might also deter foreign investors from supporting the construction of Gaza's own sea port.

Israeli officials have in the past expressed interest in gradually resurrecting the old rail link along the eastern Mediterranean coast, which during the British Mandate ran from Port Said to Beirut.

Taldor Computers announces joint venture here with Tandem

RACHEL NEIMAN

SOFTWARE developer Taldor Computer Systems and US firm Tandem Computers Inc. will establish a joint venture here. The new company will conduct research and development, Taldor announced yesterday.

Taldor will be the majority shareholder with 51 percent of shares, while Tandem will own 49%.

The new company, which has yet to be given a name, will also

serve as the distributor and representative for Tandem products here.

Following approval by the boards of both companies, the new company is scheduled to begin activity on April 1.

Up until now Taldor subsidiary Eldor Computers represented Tandem here.

During the past 16 months,

Taldor purchased Eldor from Eibit (50%) and Poalim Investments (50%).

Tandem represents only a small part of Eldor's activities, Taldor CFO Eldad Ben-Moshe said yesterday, adding that the arrangement was satisfactory to all sides.

"We are very satisfied with this step, and from a strategic point of view it fits in with other planned activities of our group," he said.

Galilee Tours plans seminar on travel to Syria

HAIM SHAPIRO

TOUR operators Galilee Tours plan to hold a seminar on Israeli tourism in Syria later this month.

"We want to be ready, and we believe that it [peace-era tourism] will come much faster than we expect," said Moshe Hananel, director of Galilee Tours, which is to hold the seminar at Beth Hatefutsoth from February 18-21.

Hananel said the local travel industry knows very little about Syria, both as a nation and a travel destination.

He added that although many of the sites in Israel are connected by history with those in Syria, most Israelis have little idea

about the attractions there.

Among the scheduled lecturers at the seminar is Rabbi Avraham Hamra, former chief rabbi of Syria. The company is also bringing in a tour guide from abroad with experience in taking groups to Syria.

Galilee Tours, which claims to be the first local tour organizer to take Israeli groups to Egypt and Jordan, said the seminar is primarily for guides and travel agents, but that the general public may also attend.

Dozens of people have already signed up for the course, the company said.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE - Accountant General

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Date: 1.2.96
Purchase Price: 147.15
Redemption Price: 144.87

למילוי פני כנס למילוי

PRIME ליימלד Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 1.2.96
Purchase Price: 108.54
Redemption Price: 107.08

למילוי פני כנס למילוי

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (30.1.96)

Currency (deposit rate)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (250,000)	4.525	4.520	4.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.575	4.375	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.575	1.750	2.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.250	0.250	0.375
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (2.2.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.4977	3.5531	3.1616	3.21	3.5314
U.S. dollar	3.1174	3.1816	2.805	2.84	3.1420
German mark	2.0822	2.1240	2.05	2.16	2.1105
Pound sterling	4.7281	4.8044	4.64	4.88	4.7781
French franc	0.0268	0.0277	0.026	0.026	0.02646
Japanese yen (100)	2.8125	2.8595	2.86	3.01	2.8410
Dutch florin	1.8554	1.8968	1.83	1.88	1.8544
Swiss franc	2.5337	2.5940	2.50	2.64	2.5777
Swedish krona	0.4480	0.4532	0.43	0.46	0.4504
Norwegian krona	0.4785	0.4863	0.47	0.50	0.4832
Danish krone	0.5420	0.5491	0.53	0.56	0.5458
French mark	0.8818	0.8928	0.87	0.91	0.8833
Canadian dollar	2.2554	2.3020	2.22	2.34	2.2872
Australian dollar	2.3455	2.3944	2.30	2.42	2.3665
S. African rand	0.8323	0.8581	0.77	0.82	0.8253
Belgian franc (10)	1.0168	1.0353	0.99	1.05	1.0288
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9725	3.0235	2.82	3.07	3.0011
Italian lire (1000)	1.9564	1.9982	1.83	2.03	1.9588
Jordanian dinar	-	-	4.23	4.57	4.3888
Egyptian pound (EGP)	-	-	0.28	0.36	0.2830
Irish punt	3.8468	3.9077	-	-	3.8550
Irish punt	4.8818	4.9508	4.79	5.03	4.8255
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4930	2.5281	2.44	2.58	2.5068

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Ports & Railways Authority

Head Office

Tender No. 9999/96

Cranes for Sale

1. The Ports and Railways Authority - Israel (hereinafter "The P.R.A."), offers the following used Container Crane in the ports of Haifa & Ashdod for sale:

No.	Description	Qty.	Make	Year	Capacity U/Spreeder	Gauge Span	Availability
1.1	Transstainer (FTG)	5	Paccoco	72-77	30 TON	76 ft	Immediately
1.2	Gantry Crane	1	Boomache	73	35 TON	16M	Immediately
1.3	Transstainer (RMG)	1	Paccoco	75	35 TON	43M	Aug. 1996

2. All cranes will be sold in an "As Is" condition.

3. The removal of the cranes from the port of Haifa and/or Ashdod will be done in a limited schedule and in coordination with the PRA with minimum interference to port operations and at the bidder's expense.

4. Proposals may be submitted for one or more of the above listed cranes. Proposals must be submitted for each crane separately. A bid bond in the value of 5% of proposal, for all cranes proposed, not including V.A.T. to be attached to the proposal. The bond will be in force for 90 days after the submission date.

5. Tender documents are available upon payment of 3,510 NIS (including V.A.T.) not refundable, at the address hereinafter:
The Ports and Railways Authority - Head Office, Purchasing Division,
74 Petach Tikva Road, 11th Floor, Room 1103, Tel-Aviv 61201, Israel. Tel: 972-3-5657064, Fax: 972-3-5615027

A technical inspection of the cranes can be done after purchasing the tender documents.

6. Proposals must be submitted no later than March 31, 1996, at the address above.

7. The P.R.A. is not obligated to accept the most expensive proposal or any other proposal.

8. The P.R.A. reserves the right to conduct negotiations with those bidders that were found to be suitable.

9. The P.R.A. reserves the right to reach agreements with more than one bidder, and/or not to sell all cranes.

DRIVE CAREFULLY

Iraqi dinar firms on hopes oil deal in works soon

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraq's central bank has set a higher conversion rate for the dinar currency to reflect growing optimism in Baghdad that Iraq will soon be able to sell oil again on world markets.

Banking sources in Baghdad said over the weekend that the dinar was set at 500 from 700 to the dollar in the third revaluation in a week.

Money changers were offering an even higher rate for the Iraqi currency, quoting it at 460 to the dollar.

The dinar, which has fallen steadily since the United Nations imposed sanctions in 1990, jumped in value last month on news Iraq may agree to a deal with the UN to sell limited amounts of oil to buy humanitarian supplies.

The dinar was trading at 3,000 to the dollar before news of the oil talks, which start this week in New York.

The rise in the dinar has slashed shop prices in Iraq as dollar-denominated imports have become cheaper to buy.

Traders said essential items like sugar, rice, eggs and flour were costing at least 75 percent less than they did three weeks ago.

Iraq's government-controlled press talks of a "shining sun rising again," a reference to an end to the hardship caused by the UN embargo imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The newspapers are claiming victory over the UN embargo and heaping praise on President Saddam Hussein for bringing "the greatest happiness" to the Iraqi people.

"Here you are compensating your people with ample joy by dismantling the chains of the embargo," declared Babel newspaper, owned by Saddam's eldest son Uday.

Preachers to Baghdad drove the same message home in their sermons on Friday.

Addressing packed mosques in the capital, their speeches were full of thanks and praise for Saddam for beating the embargo.

There has been no word from any senior Iraqi official, however, that Baghdad would accept any of the terms the UN will demand as a prelude to a resumption of oil sales.

But this has not deterred Iraqis from selling their dollars and going on a shopping binge.

State bank employees, forced

to work late into the night to cope with the surge in business, spoke of millions of dollars being exchanged by Iraqis for their own currency.

Iraqi farmers have taken to the streets in their pickup trucks, offering vegetables and fruit from the good harvest on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates at the lowest prices since the start of the UN embargo.

Meanwhile, an independent Kuwaiti economic consultancy said OPEC's reluctance to devise a policy to cope with a possible return by Iraq to world oil markets will hit oil prices.

"As usual, OPEC will await an agreement [to be reached between Iraq and the UN] to meet and deal with it," al-Shaheed economic consultancy said in a weekly review.

Indexes register little change

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



STOCKS were little changed yesterday as investors assessed the possibility that the government might move up the elections to May.

The corporate earnings season also is approaching and analysts expect generally good numbers, particularly from exporters benefiting from the devaluation of the shekel in the past six weeks.

"The prospect of early elections is positive for the stock market for a number of reasons," said David Rosenberg, head of research at Pacific Mediterranean Securities.

The most active share was Shekem, which gained 4.5 percent on NIS 2.16 million of shares traded.

The Two-sided Index added 0.05% at 211.52 and the Maof Index added 0.13% to 220.49. More than NIS 84m. of shares traded, 19% below January's average of NIS 104.9m.

Advancing and declining issues were about even.

Labor is leading in voter surveys, and the later the election "the more time for the Likud to close in on the polls," Rosenberg said. As things stand, Prime Minister Shimon Peres could win another term without a runoff, he said.

The government is also a known quantity for business, Rosenberg said. The economic policies of the Likud and Labor are

"theoretically not hard to distinguish," he said. In the last Likud-led government, the party "had more or less the same policies, but it was a disaster in implementation," Rosenberg said.

With Peres and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat "you know what you are getting, which is pretty much good."

He also noted that Central Bank Governor Jacob Frenkel's term ends in July. "If it's a tough election" for Labor, "he might be sacrificed on the altar of loose money," Rosenberg said. Frenkel had focused on fighting inflation.

"For those who appreciate the Bank of Israel's policies, and what the market as a whole does, they would like to see a situation where his term is renewed."

As for corporate profits, preliminary numbers show they'll be very good, although not across the board, the analyst said. "Certainly for the export sector" numbers will be strong because of the devaluation, he said.

However, the real estate industry "will be a little problematic because of higher rates," Rosenberg said.

Frenkel shocked the market last week by lifting the rate at which it lends to banks 0.3 percentage point to 14%. Most investors and traders had expected no change. (Bloomberg)

Key Representative Rates table with columns for instrument, rate, and change.

Gold futures pushed higher

COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

ANOTHER solid day of bullish trading pushed gold futures substantially higher on Friday, despite periodic bouts of afternoon profit-taking.

Whether or not the market can pierce the monthly high of \$425 before large-scale profit-taking sets in is the more important long-term question in this bull market, analysts explained.

Analysts differ on whether or not the market has climbed too far too fast, or if it has been a steady and patient climb.

The higher the market goes, the more it becomes susceptible to selloffs, they noted.

Physical demand has fallen sharply in many of the emerging market countries - including India and the Middle East.

Other analysts see the recent climb in gold prices as comparatively slow, given that the real break from the \$380 to \$390 range began in late November.

At the close, the April gold contract ended up \$4.00 an ounce to close at \$417.00 - that is a gain of \$27.60 since the beginning of this year.

Silver futures were decidedly less bullish than gold futures, despite another significant drawdown in COMEX silver stocks.

The debate continues to rage over whether silver's temporary supply drawdowns are a reflection of demand or a shifting from COMEX warehouses to other locations which are not required to report daily volumes.

The March silver contract closed up 4.5 cents at \$5.94 per ounce. April platinum prices were \$4.10 higher, at \$434.00 and March palladium prices were \$4.45 higher at \$140.25.

A moderate stock increase at the London Metal Exchange (LME) warehouses on Friday helped to keep COMEX copper prices in a mostly neutral posture before the weekend.

An interest rate cut of 0.25 percentage points by the Federal Reserve, which ultimately affects two major copper-consuming industries, housing and automobile, was in line with market forecasts, but failed to provide enough energy to keep all the long positions in the market this week, a copper trader said.

At the close, March copper prices were unchanged at \$1.1740.

Corn futures were again boosted to a higher Friday close as a result in a jump in wheat prices, with rumors of a Russian purchase and cold weather threatening the US winter wheat crop being the main motivating factors, sources said.

The March corn futures contract closed up 1/4 at \$3.66 1/4 per bushel. March wheat closed up 9.0 cents a bushel at \$5.26 1/4.

Soybeans closed lower on Friday on reports of sagging basis values and signs of hedging interest in new crop in Brazil, sources said. The March contract closed down 1/4 at \$7.39 1/4 per bushel.

Trading in cotton futures on Friday ended narrowly mixed in dull trade, with the most active March contract falling 0.40 cents on speculative selling, to settle at \$5.60 cents a pound.

Industry-related buying boosted CSEB world sugar prices on Friday, with the March contract gaining 0.11 cents a pound to close at 12.04 cents.

Coffee futures settled lower after a very choppy session that featured options-related speculator activity, traders said. The March contract settled 265 points lower at \$1.2375.

Cocoa futures settled higher on Friday on speculative buying, traders said. The March cocoa futures contract settled \$8 higher at \$1.268.

Courtesy of Michael Zwebner, ComStock Trading Ltd.



Mercedes boss pledges to regain lost market share

DAVOS, Switzerland, Feb 3 (Reuters) - Helmut Werner, chairman of Mercedes-Benz AG, said Mercedes would soon recapture market share lost in Germany last year because of the introduction of its new E-class model.

"Phasing out and phasing in costs market share," Werner told journalists at the World Economic Forum's 1996 annual meeting.

"We plan to sell more than 600,000 cars worldwide during 1996 so therefore we will catch back up."

The Federal Motor Office said Mercedes market share in Germany, measured by registrations, declined to 7.6 percent in 1995 from 8.1% in 1994.

"We know from our analysis and present order patterns that we can expect to grow over 1995 in E-class sales," Werner said.

The E-class was launched last July. BMW's new five series, launched in December, was helping to increase interest in this segment of the market, Werner said.

"Traditionally the competition with BMW fuels our business and at the end of the day... it supports the interest for that car segment," Werner said, adding, "I expect good competition."

Mercedes is bringing out a two-seat roadster, the SLK, this year, in the small sports car market that looks crowded with new entries from BMW and Porsche.

"But the first year, the first two years are not significant," Werner said.

"It's going to be a very attractive vehicle that's going to be offered at a very attractive price and I am very optimistic."

Werner said he welcomed the changes at the parent company, Daimler-Benz, which last month announced it was cutting off financial support to troubled Dutch plane maker Fokker and also said it would merge with the remainder of its old consumer product unit AEG.

Automakers meet to discuss market in eastern Europe

WARSAW (Reuters) - Major car makers and their parts suppliers open a two-day conference in Warsaw today to discuss strategies for boosting sales and expanding production in the fast-growing markets of central and eastern Europe.

With car-hungry consumers and inexpensive and skilled workers, the region has attracted a \$4 billion in manufacturing projects since the end of Communism from Daewoo Group, Fiat Group, General Motors, Renault SA and Volkswagen AG.

Top executives from each company will talk about experiences in the region, focusing on investment opportunities, labor relations, the political climate, product quality and risk.

"I'm interested in hearing from automakers and suppliers that have invested in the region - the lessons they've learned and the hurdles they've had to overcome," conference participant Lonis Bailoni, an automotive

consultant, said by telephone from his office in London.

Many analysts forecast annual growth in car sales to average nearly 10 percent to 2000 in central and eastern Europe. Car ownership there remains low compared to western Europe.

But car markets in the old East bloc still need time to mature. Options to finance car purchases remain limited, while duties and taxes often inflate prices beyond the means of most car buyers.

In Hungary, a Mercedes-Benz S600 coupe costs roughly \$60,000, nearly triple the price in Germany.

Nevertheless, seasoned auto executives said the car business in central and eastern Europe had developed rapidly since the Berlin Wall fell.

"I remember working from hotel rooms in Budapest and Prague in the fall of 1990 to launch our operations in the region," Mohammed Razaq, sales director for General Motors (Europe), said.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table with columns for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, AFTERNOON, and MORNING. Includes sub-sections for Commercial Banks, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Industrial, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Trade & Services, Property, Building & Agriculture, Investment Companies, and Parallel List.

Asian currencies set to rise on low US interest rates

SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Asian regional currencies, particularly the Indonesian rupiah and Thai baht, are set to appreciate as investors look East for higher yields following last week's US interest rate cut, economists and foreign exchange traders said over the weekend.

The baht, rupiah and Malaysian ringgit rose late last week after the Federal Reserve lowered its funds and discount rates by 25 basis points to 5.25 percent and 5.0% respectively.

While higher rates in all three Asian countries are attracting investors put off by the current bias for credit easing in Europe and the US, Thailand and Indonesia hold the greatest appeal, said Sim Moh Siong, regional economist at financial consulting firm IDEA over the weekend.

Sim said the differential between Indonesian and US three-month interbank rates was about 10%, while investors in Thailand could hope for a 4% yield.

"Rates will have to remain high in these countries mainly because they are experiencing overheating problems, as is quite evident from their inflation figures," Sim said.

Thailand's Commerce Ministry reported last week that the rate of inflation for January was unchanged from December at 7.4%, which went against analysts' expectations of 6.6%-6.8%.

Dominique Mairé, senior economist at Union Bank of Switzerland in Singapore, also said that Indonesian and Thai authorities would maintain a tight monetary policy in the face of large current account deficits and rising inflation.

"The Indonesians are strongly committed to stability and avoiding interest rate shock therapy," he said, adding that the central bank was also opposed to a stepwise devaluation of the currency.

However, he added that continued strong inflows of funds would exert pressure on Indonesian and Thai interest rates.

He said the bullish performance of Wall Street stocks coupled with the implicit risks of investing in emerging markets could keep fund managers confined to Western shores.

Noting that Asian regional currencies had already seen strong inflows of funds over the last couple of months, he said investors should be increasingly cautious.

The Israel Telecommunications Corp. Ltd.

Bids are invited for the supply of the following goods: Tender 62/95/022/0 for Feature Telephones - Framework Agreement

- The following general conditions apply: 1. Pre-conditions: a. Parties submitting bids must comply with all laws, including the requirement to keep account books, be an authorized trader, and hold valid licenses to trade. b. Willingness to provide a guarantee, as explained in the tender documents. c. Compliance with the "minimum" conditions, given in the tender documents. 2. The tender documents can be obtained from the Tenders and Ordering Department of the Purchasing Division, 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem (Room 609) Tel. 02-395614/5, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday to Thursday. The tender documents will be provided, on submitting a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of NIS1,000. * In Israel, this sum should be paid into Postal Bank account 5-311757. * Overseas suppliers should make a deposit in Bezeq's account No. 12-901-97633/64, at the Jerusalem central branch of Bank Leumi Leisrael. The receipt, with details of your company, and authorized trader's number, may be faxed to 02-378113. Please phone afterwards, to obtain confirmation of receipt of the fax. 3. Bids should be placed in the tenders box at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem, not later than 6 p.m. on March 28, 1996. 4. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid, or to order the entire work from one source. Bids sent by fax or telegram will not be considered.

Late-game rally rescues Maccabi Tel Aviv

HAPPOEL Gvat almost pulled off the unfathomable, before succumbing to the league champions, Hapoel Jerusalem and Galil proved its mettle, while Herzliya breathed a sigh of relief, and Eilat continued its season of discontent.

Mac. TA 88, Hap. Gvat 79

In an unbelievable game that almost provided the upset of the year, Maccabi Tel Aviv came back in the last two and a half minutes to escape with the victory. The kibbutznik, currently mired in last place and facing almost certain relegation to the Second Division next year came into Yael Elyahu without the services of their two best players, Derrick Gervin and Stevie Thompson.

Gvat coach Zvi Horvitz, aware that his team's personnel was not as talented as the Maccabi bench, decided to counter by playing a 2-1-2 zone, forcing Maccabi to shoot outside jumpers. Maccabi was unable to open a substantial lead, as Gvat youngsters Guy Zano, Gili Schwartzman and Sharon Avrahami refused to roll over and die. With the score tied at 56, Gvat's Costa Gurman nailed a three pointer giving Gvat a remarkable three point lead with less than 10 minutes remaining. The game remained tight as Maccabi clung to a 78-76 lead with 2:50 to play.

Experience proved to be the difference as Tom Chambers (21 points) and Nadav Henefeld (16) came through with clutch play down the

ELI GRONER

stretch. For Gvat, Schwartzman and Avrahami had 18 and 17 points, respectively.

Galil Elyon 79, Hap. Holon 74

Galil Elyon overcame a 13 point deficit to return from Holon victorious. The northerners used a lot of character, defense and Andrew Kennedy to prevail.

The game was close throughout the first 15 minutes until Holon, helped by a David Blatt technical foul, pulled out to a 43-34 halftime lead.

The second half was a different story, as Kennedy scored 22 of his 35 points, to go along with his 11 rebounds and turn the game around. Oren Amiel also came through with an important basket with :19 remaining, providing Galil with a 77-72 lead, and helping to stave off a late Holon rally.

Derrick Hamilton paced Holon with 24 points.

Bnei Herzliya 78, Mac. R. Gan 69

"When in doubt, go to Amir Kez" seemed to be the credo for Muli Katzurim last night, as the league's hottest shooter proved to be the difference.

Katz, due to his recent injury, started the game on the bench, but when Robert Rose and David Brooks jumped-started Ramat-Gan to a 26-21 lead, Katzurim called on his rifle-man from the bench.

Katz delivered, scoring 23 points over the game's last 27 minutes, as

Herzliya maintained its hold on third place.

Hap. Jerusalem 95, Hap. Safed 80

The game was supposed to be a test for Hapoel Jerusalem. They passed with flying colors, as Pinny Gershon's club came prepared, dictated the pace of the game and came away with the difficult road victory.

Jerusalem used lots of penetration by guards Papi Turgeman and Adi Gordon which set up a lot of free throws, lay-ups and open jumpers en route to frustrating the local favorites. Melvin Neuborn scored 28 for Safed.

Mac. Jerusalem 85, Hap. Eilat 74

Maccabi Jerusalem's regular roster showed up this week and Joe Dawson played his best game of the season as the Jerusalemites crept into a seventh place tie in the standings. Eilat didn't look good in Ralph Klein's coaching debut, as they sealed for outside shoots for most of the game.

Team	W	L	Pct
Hapoel Jerusalem	12	1	.25
Maccabi Tel Aviv	12	1	.25
Hapoel Galil Elyon	9	4	.22
Bnei Herzliya	8	4	.20
Maccabi Pithon	7	6	.20
Hapoel Safed	5	8	.18
Hapoel Holon	4	9	.17
Hapoel Eilat	4	9	.17
Maccabi Jerusalem	3	9	.15
Hapoel Tel Aviv	3	9	.15
Hapoel Gvat	2	11	.15
Maccabi Ramat Gan	2	11	.15

Mourning shines but Heat falter

MIAMI (AP) - Dana Barros rattled in a 17-foot jumper with 0.3 seconds left, giving the Boston Celtics a 100-99 victory over the Miami Heat on Saturday night despite a career-high 45 points from Alonzo Mourning.

The Celtics snapped a four-game road losing streak and beat Miami for the third time this season. Boston is 6-1 against the Heat in the last two seasons.

Rookie Eric Williams scored 18 points and Boston's reserves outscored Miami's 50-6. Kevin Willis had a career-high 21 rebounds for Miami, but he sat out the entire fourth quarter.

On the game-winning play, Barros, guarded tightly by Bimbo Coles, worked the shot clock down and drove just inside the 3-point circle before stopping and shooting. The ball went in and out, then caromed off the backboard and back in. Rex Chapman, who scored 17 points, be missed a desperation 35-foot shot at the buzzer.

SuperSonics 104, Rockets 103 (OT)

Gary Payton had 32 points and his 3-pointer with 7.6 seconds left in overtime sealed the win for visiting Seattle, their sixth victory in a row over the Rockets.

The Sonics, whose 33-12 record is the best in the Western Conference, trailed by at least 10 for most of the game, but finally took the lead with 3:45 to go in the fourth quarter when Hersey Hawkins - one of six Sonics in double figures with 22 points - hit a pair of free throws after Sam Cassell fouled out.

The score was tied three times in the final five minutes and neither team was able to go ahead by more than three points.

With the score 92-92, Mark Bryant's layup attempt rolled out with 36 seconds to go. Detlef Schrempf then missed a 3-pointer for Seattle with 17.7 seconds left, and Clyde Drexler missed a 3-pointer as the clock was expiring in the fourth quarter.

The Sonics, winning for the 19th time in their last 22 games, took charge in the extra period with Payton hitting the first and last baskets.

Trail Blazers 96, 76ers 85

Rod Strickland scored 18 points and Portland's reserves had 46 points as the visiting Trail Blazers snapped their three-game losing streak.

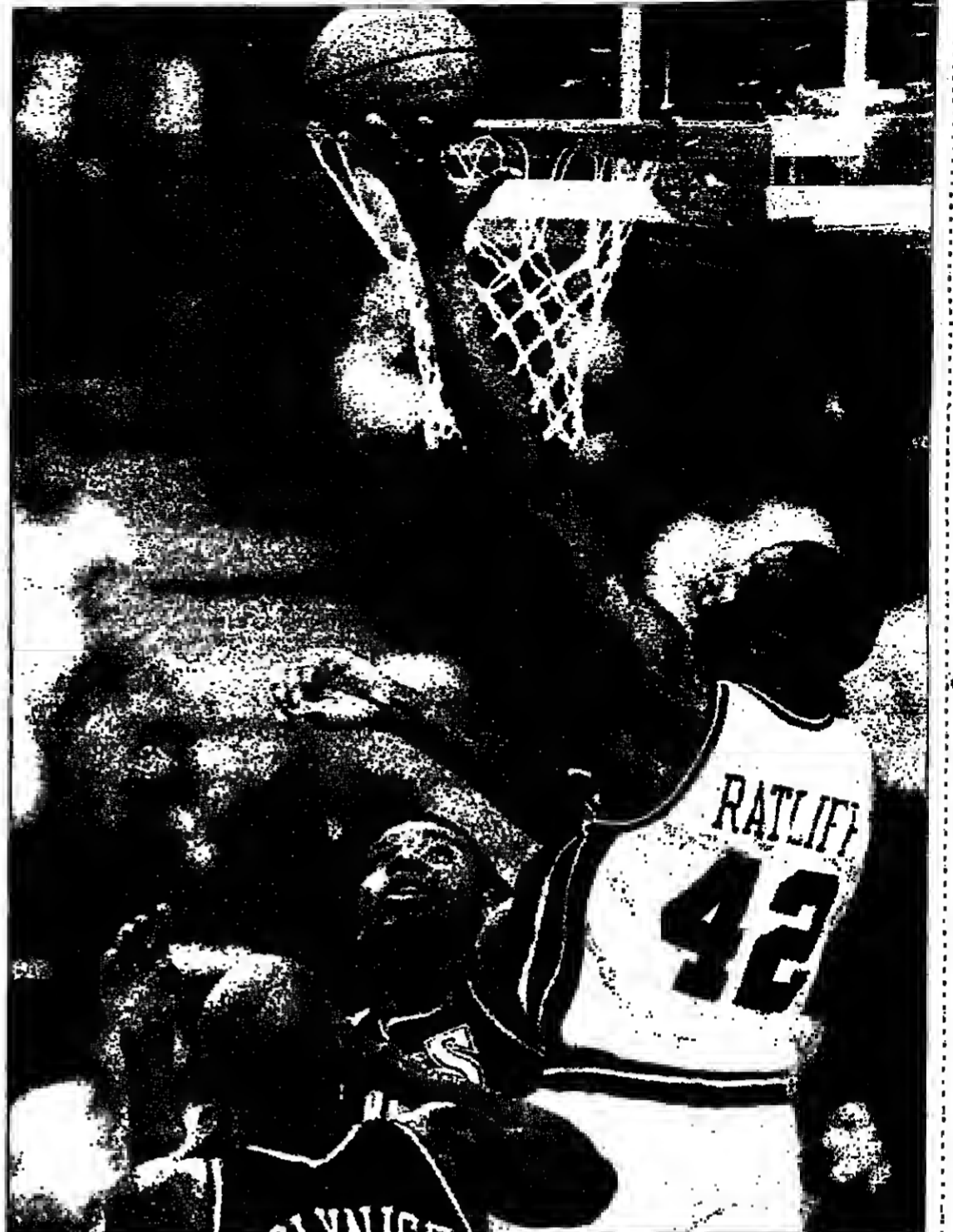
The Blazers bounced back from a 16-point loss at Washington the night before when they began a four-game road trip. Gary Trent and James Robinson came off the bench to score 17 points each and Arvydas Sabonis had 10 points.

Vernon Maxwell had 20 points for Philadelphia, which lost for the 10th time in 11 games.

Kings 94, Pistons 83

Mich Richmond had 11 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter and Sacramento began a four-game road trip with a victory over Detroit.

It was a rare road win for the Kings and a rare home loss for the Pistons. Sacramento had lost nine of its last 11 road games, and Detroit had won six of seven at home. The Kings have won only two of their last 10 games on



UP AND IN - Detroit's Theo Ratliff goes for the basket en route to a 94-85 loss to Sacramento on Saturday night.

EASTERN CONFERENCE				WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Atlantic Division		GB		Midwest Division		GB	
Orlando	32	13	711	San Antonio	28	13	680
New York	28	15	551	Utah	30	14	682
Washington	22	21	512	Houston	30	17	638
Miami	20	26	436	Denver	18	26	409
New Jersey	18	28	402	Dallas	15	29	348
Boston	17	28	378	Minnesota	12	31	279
Philadelphia	8	36	182	Vancouver	10	36	222
Central Division				Pacific Division			
Chicago	41	3	932	Seattle	33	12	733
Indiana	30	15	667	Sacramento	24	17	585
Cleveland	25	20	558	L.A. Lakers	25	19	568
Atlanta	24	20	545	Portland	22	24	478
Detroit	22	21	512	Phoenix	19	24	442
Charlotte	21	22	488	Golden State	19	25	432
Milwaukee	16	27	372	L.A. Clippers	16	29	356
Toronto	13	32	289				

Connecticut sinks St. John's

NEW YORK (AP) - Ray Allen scored 29 points and Doron Sheffer added 17 as the fourth-ranked Huskies won their 20th consecutive game, a 77-63 victory over St. John's at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night.

Apparently there haven't been a whole lot of problems with the Huskies (21-1, 11-0 Big East) making positive plays.

They haven't lost since an overtime defeat to Iowa in the semifinals of the season-opening Great Alaska Shootout. Their winning streak matches top-ranked UMass (20-0) for the longest current streak in the country.

The latest win certainly wasn't

the prettiest of the streak, but it kept Connecticut perfect in the Big East. The Huskies have been in first place in the conference every day of the last 2 1/2 seasons and are a remarkable 43-4 in league play in that period.

St. John's (8-10, 2-8) lost for the fifth time in six games and have dropped seven straight to the Huskies.

St. John's was within 10 at 67-57 with 2:56 left on two free throws by Lopez, but Allen, who averages 23.3 points, came right back with a 3-pointer 19 seconds later.

Allen finished 6-of-9 from 3-point range and Sheffer was 3-of-8. St. John's made only three of 16

attempts from behind the arc.

SATURDAY'S TOP 25 RESULTS:
No. 2 Kentucky 77, Florida 63; No. 4 Connecticut 77, St. John's 63; No. 6 Villanova 88, Pittsburgh 55; No. 7 Utah 74, New Mexico 58; North Carolina State 78, No. 8 North Carolina 75; No. 9 Georgetown 78, Notre Dame 53; No. 10 Penn State 95, No. 16 Iowa 87 (OT); Louisville 74, No. 11 Memphis 54; No. 13 Virginia Tech 74, Rhode Island 66 (OT); No. 14 Arizona 96, Washington State 78; No. 15 Texas Tech 79, Rice 57; No. 17 Purdue 56, Michigan State 51; No. 19 UCLA 69, Oregon State 58; No. 20 Michigan 77, Ohio State 58; No. 21 Boston College 84, West Virginia 63; No. 23 Eastern Michigan 62, Akron 53; Duke 83, No. 24 Clemson 53; Maryland 88; No. 25 Georgia Tech 74.

Kadosh leaves Betar Tel Aviv

MICHAEL "Lupa" Kadosh became the eighth National League coaching casualty of the season yesterday when his employment at Betar Tel Aviv was terminated after less than a year in charge.

Kadosh offered his resignation to club chairman Benzi Moradov on Saturday night following the club's 6-1 home drubbing by Bnei Yehuda, a loss which sent them to the bottom of the league.

Yesterday, Moradov reluctantly

ORI LEWIS agreed to terminate Kadosh's employment in the hope that a change will bring an improvement in fortunes.

Kadosh will be replaced by Dov Remmler, a former player at Hapoel Tel Aviv and until yesterday coach of Second-Division Hapoel Ashdod.

Moradov hopes the new coach will achieve what Kadosh did last

season - make sure that the small Tel Aviv club does not get relegated from the National League.

In other news, Zafirim Hojon manager Mordechai Spiegler is not yet leaving his club, although he may soon follow Kadosh if the club's fortunes do not improve.

Holon lost 1-0 to lowly Maccabi Jaffa on Friday and are level on points with Betar Tel Aviv, with only goal difference keeping them off the bottom of the standings.

Bruck sets another swimming record

HEATHER CHAIT

THE Israeli swimming success story continued yesterday in the World Cup tournament in Paris, with Yoav Bruck setting another national record in the 50 meter freestyle. Swimming in the short-course pool, Bruck sliced 30-hundredths of a second off his own record set last week in Sweden with a time of 22.30 seconds. This earned him the bronze medal.

In the morning's preliminary round, Bruck registered a time of 22:58 seconds, at the time, also a new record. Today, Bruck is traveling to Italy while the rest of the team is going to Germany.

Mickey Halika reached the finals of the 200 meter individual medley, where he finished in sixth place with a time of 2:04.88 - a personal record.

Eitan Urbach came in fifth in the 200 meters backstroke with a time of 1:58.93.

Kutler failed to reach the final of the 100 meter butterfly clocking 56.46 seconds in the preliminary round.

On Saturday, Dan Kutler's time of 24.71 seconds in the 50 meter butterfly earned him the silver medal, while Halika notched up a new national record in the 400 meter individual medley. He finished fourth in the final with a time of 4:19.69, knocking the 39 hundredths off his previous record set last year.

Chelsea crushes Middlesbrough

LONDON (Reuters) - Striker Gavin Peacock hit a hat-trick as Chelsea, inspired by Dutch ace Ruud Gullit, crushed Middlesbrough 5-0 in the English Premier League yesterday.

The victory lifted the London club, now unbeaten in eight games in all competitions and only once in its last 15, to eighth in the league table.

Peacock, playing only because veteran striker Mark Hughes is injured, put Chelsea ahead in the 29th minute and, after Scottish international John Spencer's strike two minutes later, scored his second in the 38th after a run by Gullit.

Striker Paul Furlong put the finishing touch to an excellent fourth goal in the 52nd minute following a superb 60-metre cross field ball from Gullit met by Romania's Dan Petrescu, who put in a telling square pass.

Peacock, who had scored only twice before this season, completed his hat-trick three minutes later

when, put through brilliantly by Spencer, he slipped the ball past hesitant Boro goalkeeper Gary Walsh into the net.

Middlesbrough, again without its injured Brazilian midfielder Juninho, have lost their last six league games.

Chelsea, gaining in confidence in the passing game instilled in them by manager Glenn Hoddle, repeatedly beat Middlesbrough's offside trap with intelligent running and precise through balls.

Goalkeeper Kevin Hitchcock tipped a dipping shot from Boro's Norway international Jan-Age Fjortoft over the bar in the first half and Paul Wilkinson's 20-meter shot in the dying minutes hit the far post.

YESTERDAY'S SOCCER RESULTS:
Premier League:
Chelsea 5, Middlesbrough 0
Division One:
Charlton 0, Crystal Palace 0; Norwich 1, Birmingham 1; Port Vale 0, Stoke (ppd.); Reading 0, Portsmouth 1

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

ENGLISH LECTURES

HELEN KAYE

ANTISEMITISM, unfortunately, never becomes history. The Friends of Tel Aviv University is offering a spring seminar called "Understanding Extremism and Antisemitism." It is to meet every Monday at 5 p.m. in the Werner Library on Campus for eight weeks starting March 11. For information, call (03) 641-7115.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

COMPOSER Haim Perlmot talks about his new Elegy for Piano and Orchestra tonight at 8:30 at the Israel Music Institute in Tel Aviv. Pianist Revital Hachamoff and conductor Itai Talgam, who performed the piece at its premiere with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra, will also participate.

Gila Bashari performs tonight at 8:30 at the Rubin Museum in Tel Aviv, with Yair Stavi at the piano. In a program titled "Musical association in Israeli music: from traditional songs to Yehazkel Braun." The composer also participates, as does the Israel Piano Trio performing piano trios by Brann and Paul Ben-Haim.

TELEVISION

RUTH KERN

AT the height of the McCarthy era, when an unwillingness to name names was the supreme test of courage, along came a movie which glorified the snitch. On the Waterfront substituted union mobsters for the red menace, and turned washed-up boxer Terry Malloy (Marlon Brando) into the reluctant hero who is finally pushed by his brother's murder to testify against them. Despite the dubious political subtext, Elia Kazan's movie is supremely powerful even 40-plus years on. Brando's heartbreaking "I coulda been a contender" monologue remains undiminished by endless parody. If the backdrops seem particularly authentic, that's no accident. The film was shot in the real riverfront town of Hoboken, New Jersey—a place where, like Terry, old-timers still raise pigeons on their tenement roofs. Oh, yes, and the score was written by some guy



Elia Kazan's masterpiece On the Waterfront will be aired tonight on Second Showing.

named Leonard Bernstein. Tune in to Second Showing at 10 p.m.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ LISBON STORY - Like all Wim Wenders's films, this is a moviemaker's movie, concerned less with the state of the art than with being human. It's the wistful-sweet tale of a German filmmaker named Phillip, a soundman, who travels to the Portuguese capital to search for his missing American collaborator. The real star of the picture, though, is the city itself: as Phillip hunts for his friend, it becomes clear that this conventional mystery plot is merely a pretext for Wenders to roam and film the wistful streets. And given the eclectic and riveting footage this yields, it seems as good an excuse to explore as any. The movie also gains an instant infusion of rich, local feeling from its lush soundtrack, and benefits from the light slapstick that distinguishes so much of the action. As Phillip hops on and off trolley cars with his fuzzy microphone, lopsided smile and brokeo leg, he suggests a cheerful, verbal descendant of Buster Keaton in The Cameraman. (German, English and Portuguese dialogue, Hebrew and English subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Jewish Mysticism 8:30 Ecology 8:45 Nature 9:10 Music 9:30 Pretty Butterfly 10:00 On Second Thoughts - Intransigence and flexibility 10:30 Open studio: Seeing green 12:30 A Possible World - Our Common Future 13:15 Science 13:30 Stories from the Garbage Heap 14:00 The Dolphin Dilemma 15:00 Autoto

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Femuggly: The Last Rain Forest - cartoon 17:00 A New Evening 17:35 Zappit to Hosting - with young artists and performers 18:15 News in English ARABIC PROGRAMS 18:30 Sport magazine 19:00 News in Arabic HEBREW PROGRAMS 19:30 Every Evening with Merav Michaeli 20:00 News 20:45 Popolizza 22:00 Sanderson - comedy 23:00 Backtrack - with Ehud Moroni 23:30 News magazine 00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2

13:00 Talking About It - Danny Roup talks to people with interesting stories 14:00 Bay City - Australian children's drama 14:30 Tick Tack 15:00 Pinocchio - with Hebrew dubbing 15:30 Dramas with Uzi Hitman 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshet 17:30 A Matter of Time - drama for youth 18:00 Santa Barbara 18:30 Soap opera 19:00 Bawatch 20:00 News 20:30 It's a Deal - game show 21:05 Zehu Zeh - comedy 21:40 Dan Shilon live 23:15 Sirens - police drama series 00:00 News 00:05 Sirens (continues) 00:30 Studo - dating game 00:45 Starlight and Hutch - police series 01:35 Tell Me You Love Me (1993) - BBC romantic drama about a young, beautiful woman whose boyfriend is obsessive, over-sensitive and jealous. 03:05 Poem of the Day

JORDAN TV

14:00 Donkers 14:30 Richie Rich - cartoon 15:00 Playback 15:15 Busfin Loose - comedy 15:40 Animals of the Mediterranean - documentary 16:00 Voyage 17:00 French Programs 19:30 News

WHERE TO GO

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JERUSALEM Conducted Tours ISRAELI UNIVERSITY: Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur, 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Square, Jerusalem, 4344, 43, 23, 26, 27. For info, call 882811. HADASSAH: Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. 02-416333, 02-776271.

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DUTY HOSPITALS Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal, surgery, ophthalmology, orthopedics, obstetrics); Bikur Holim (Internal, surgery). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics), Ichilov (Internal, surgery), Netanyah: Laniado.

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Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-02-010 The National Poison Control Center at Haimon Hospital 04-5252525, for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning. Emergency services: Tel Aviv 545111 (English/Hebrew) 591113, Haifa 5672222, Beersheva 281121, Netanya 985110, Kiryat Anan 545111, Kiryat Anan 545111, Netanya 985111, Eilat 31777. Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-647875.

Headlines 19:35 McHale's Navy - comedy 20:00 Invention 20:25 Hawaii Five-O 21:10 Russia - The Missing Years 22:00 News in English 22:25 A Journey Across the Land of Israel 22:40 Perfect Scoundrels 23:10 Taurus Rising - drama series 00:00 Eitan - comedy

CABLE

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8:00 Falcon Crest 9:00 One Life to Live 9:45 The Young and the Restless 10:30 Second Time Around 10:55 Daddy's Girls 11:25 Celeste 12:10 Neighbors 12:35 Perry Mason 13:30 Starting at 1:30 14:05 The Trials of Rosie O'Neill 14:55 Falcon Crest 15:45 ENG 16:45 Neighbors 17:10 Antonella 18:00 One Life to Live 18:45 The Young and the Restless 18:30 Local broadcast 20:00 Celeste 20:50 Special evening with Bud and Kelly Young 23:20 Mad About You 23:45 Sisters 00:35 St. Elsewhere 1:25 Knots Landing

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

10:30 Water (1985) - comedy starring Michael Caine as the governor of an island which has no natural resources except water (rpt) 12:10 Happy Go Lovely (1951) - British musical about a chorus girl who gets the star role because of her rich boyfriend (rpt) 13:46 El T - suspense 14:35 Aloha Summer (1995) - six youngsters spend the summer of '59 in Hawaii (rpt) 15:10 Decoration Day (1990) - James Garner plays a retired judge who tries to persuade his childhood friend to accept a medal for heroism in Vietnam (rpt) 16:30 The Opponent (1987) - action movie about a young boxer who fights a rival inside the ring and out - by falling in love with the rival's girlfriend (89 mins) 19:25 Rising Sun (1990) - drama starring Brian Dennehy as a blue collar factory-man whose desperate setting his hopes too high (rpt) 21:00 Max and Helen (1990) - touching drama based on a true story, Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal helps a Holocaust survivor find his fiancée. Starring Treat Williams, Alice Krige and John Lithgow. Directed by Philip Saville (90 mins) 22:35 Us (1991) - family melodrama written, produced and directed by Michael Landon who also stars as a prisoner trying to rebuild his life after being released for good behavior (89 mins) 00:10 Voyagers (1991) - action movie about a native Canadian indie whodknap the manager of a paper factory to protest the destruction of the environment. Starring Graham Green (98 mins) 1:50 Straight to Hell (1987) - spoof of spaghetti Westerns (rpt)

CHILDREN (6)

8:30 Cartoons 8:00 Surprise Garden 8:35 The Magical World of Dinosaurs 9:00 White Fang 9:40 Silver Hawks 10:10 Lois and Clark 11:05 Power Rangers 11:40 Looney Tunes 12:00 Saved by the Bell 12:30 Home 13:00 Surprise Garden 13:35 Alvin and the Chipmunks 14:00 Detective Book 14:35 Once Upon a Time 15:18 Silver Hawks 15:35 Rain Forests 18:15 Family Ties 18:35 Ocean Girl 17:10 Looney Tunes 17:30 Saved by the Bell 18:00 Hugo 18:35 White Fang 19:00 The Magical World of Dinosaurs 19:30 Three's Company 20:00 Married with Children 20:25 Family Ties 20:55 Mork and Mandy 21:20 Cheers

STAR PLUS

6:00 Beverly Hillsbillies 6:30 Look and Cook 7:00 Video Fashion Monthly 7:30 Gabrielle 8:30 Santa Barbara 9:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 10:00 Oprah Winfrey 11:00 Remington Steele 12:00 Look and Cook 12:30 Video Fashion Monthly 13:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 13:30 Small Wonder 14:00 The Black Stallion 14:30 Batman 15:00 Home and Away 15:30 Entertainment Tonight 16:00 M*A*S*H 16:30 Inspector Morse Mystery Movies 18:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 19:00 Santa Barbara 20:00 Hard Copy Star Trek 20:30 Hearts Afire 21:00 Grace Under Fire 21:30 Bamaby Jones 22:30 Entertainment Tonight 23:00 Oprah Winfrey 00:00 Movie TV 00:30 Home and Away 1:00 The Sullivans

CHANNEL 5

6:30 - 8:00 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 US college basketball: Connecticut vs Rutgers 17:45 South American soccer 18:45 Live National League handball: ASA

CINEMA

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SECOND SHOWING (6) 22:00 On the Waterfront (1954) - Elia Kazan's fascinating drama won eight Oscars and turned Marlon Brando into a superstar. After his brother is killed, a young harbor worker breaks the hold of his gang boss and of the New York City harbor unions. With Karl Malden, Lee J. Cobb, Rod Steiger and Eve Marie Saint (107 mins) 23:50 Loe Ojos Vardados (1978) - Spanish director Carlos Saura's political drama. A theater director stages a play following a symposium on torture in a South American prison. The horrifying images become reality when right-wing extremists attack the theater on opening night (107 mins)

DISCOVERY (8)

6:00 Open University: Management, Marketing and Economics 12:00 Human Nature 13:00 Beyond 2000 14:00 Open University (rpt of morning's programs) 16:00 Human Nature 17:00 Beyond 2000 18:00 Open University (rpt of morning's programs) 20:00 In Search of Our Ancestors 21:00 Web of Life 22:00 Web of Life 23:00 In Search of Our Ancestors 23:50 Open University (rpt of morning's programs)

ITV 3 (33)

17:00 Cartoons 17:30 Migrating Birds 18:30 Panorama with Zaidan Asha 19:00 News in Arabic 19:30 Songs We Loved 20:00 Mabal News 20:45 The Railway Station Man (1992) - Julie Christie stars as an Irish war widow, who, pining for her son who has joined the IRA, falls for a reclusive American who has taken up residence in the town railway station. Also starring Donald Sutherland. (100 mins) 00:00 Closedown

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Hey Dad 16:00 Math enrichment 17:00 At the Bottom of the Sea With Delphi 17:30 Time Out 18:00 The Herodian Kingdom: Between East and West 18:30 Family Relations 19:00 Basic Arabic 19:30 Before Induction - program about army service 20:00 A New Evening (with Russian subtitles) 20:30 The Agatha Christie Hour 21:30 Korea - The Unknown War 22:30 Spirited Talks

SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 The Selma Scott Show 7:00 ITN World News 7:15 NBC News 7:30 Steals and Deals 8:00 The Today Show 10:00 Super Shop 11:00 European Money Wheel 15:30 The Squawk Box 17:00 US Money Wheel 18:30 FT Business Tonight 19:00 ITN News 19:30 Frost's Century 20:30 The Selma Scott Show 21:30 Frontal 22:30 ITN News 23:00 Superstop 00:00 Best of the Tonight Show 1:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien

STAR PLUS

6:00 Beverly Hillsbillies 6:30 Look and Cook 7:00 Video Fashion Monthly 7:30 Gabrielle 8:30 Santa Barbara 9:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 10:00 Oprah Winfrey 11:00 Remington Steele 12:00 Look and Cook 12:30 Video Fashion Monthly 13:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 13:30 Small Wonder 14:00 The Black Stallion 14:30 Batman 15:00 Home and Away 15:30 Entertainment Tonight 16:00 M*A*S*H 16:30 Inspector Morse Mystery Movies 18:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 19:00 Santa Barbara 20:00 Hard Copy Star Trek 20:30 Hearts Afire 21:00 Grace Under Fire 21:30 Bamaby Jones 22:30 Entertainment Tonight 23:00 Oprah Winfrey 00:00 Movie TV 00:30 Home and Away 1:00 The Sullivans

CHANNEL 5

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Tel Aviv vs Hapoel Rishon 20:15 Live National League basketball; Hapoel TA vs Maccabi Rishon 22:45 Premier league soccer roundup 23:45 Brazilian league soccer

EUROSPORT

9:30 Alpine skiing 11:00 Formula 1 12:00 International motorsports magazine 13:00 Boxing 14:00 Biathlon 15:00 Figure skating 17:00 Swimming 18:00 Cycling 19:00 African Nations' Cup soccer highlights 20:30 Eurogals 21:00 Speed world 23:00 Pro-wrestling 00:00 Eurogals 1:00 Eurogolf 2:00 Karting

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Motorsports magazine 8:00 Golf magazine 8:30 Asian sports show 9:00 Tennis 9:30 Chinese league basketball 11:00 WWF 14:00 Figure skating 14:30 Baseball magazine 15:00 03 15:30 Baseball magazine 16:30 Motorcycling 17:30 World Cup cricket preview 18:00 Asian sports show 18:30 Baseball magazine 19:30 Footballing 20:00 Golf magazine 20:30 World Cup cricket preview 21:00 Tennis 21:30 Golf 00:30 Five Nations' Cup rugby: England vs Wales

BBC WORLD

News on the hour 6:00 BBC Newsday 6:05 The Money Programme 10:15 The Money Programme 11:30 Food and Drink 14:05 Assignment 15:15 World Business Report 16:25 The Multi-Media Business 17:15 The Money Programme 18:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 19:30 Tomorrow's World 22:05 The Money Programme 23:30 Holiday 00:00 BBC World News and Business Report

CNN INTERNATIONAL

News throughout the day 6:30 Showbiz This Week 8:30 Global View 9:30 Diplomatic License 11:30 CNN Newsroom 12:30 Headline News 13:00 Business Day 14:00 Asia News 14:30 World Sport 15:00 Asia News 15:30 Business Asia 16:00 Larry King Live 17:30 Sport 18:30 Business Asia 21:00 World News 22:00 Larry King Live 00:00 World Business Today 00:30 Sport

SKY NEWS

News on the hour 6:30 CBS News 7:30 ABC World News 12:10 CBS 60 Minutes 15:30 CBS News 16:30 Live from Parliament 19:00 Live at Five 20:10 Tonight with Adam Boulton 22:10 60 Minutes 1:30 CBS News

RADIO

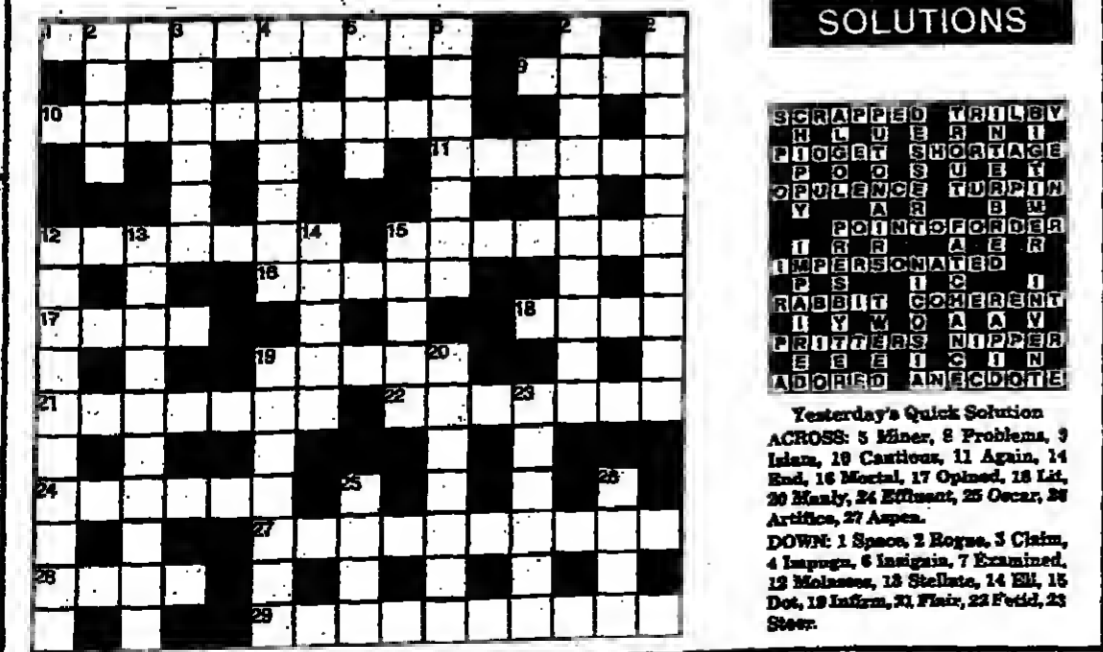
VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Morning Concert 9:05 Reicha: Quintet in D for winds op 91/3 (Prague Acad Quintet); Dohnanyi: Piano concerto no 2 (Prague/BBC Scottish SO); contemporary works 12:00 Light Classical - excerpts from operettas by Lehár, Kalman, Oscar Strauss 13:00 Violinist Thomas Zehetmair - Schubert: Quintet in A for piano and strings 'Trout' 14:06 Encore 15:00 Cycle of Works - Beethoven's piano sonatas 16:00 Early music 17:00 Enablia - live broadcast from Henry Crown Auditorium, Jerusalem, Israel Piano Trio, Martinu: Piano Quartet (1942); Odeon: Paganini: Ballade for piano trio (1970); Brahms: Piano Trio; Camille Saint-Saens: Suite for cello and piano 20:05 Beethoven: Septet in E flat op 20 (London Melos En); Mozart: Sonata in B flat for bassoon and cello K292 21:00 A Matter of Agreement 23:00 Just Jazz



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Hairpiece in fashion again - it has hairs in it (10) 9 Means of spearing fish (4) 10 False trade-plate found in the Lake District (10) 11 Plant growth will be found in relic, henceforth (6) 12 Fowler, say, a would-be fies? (7) 16 Method used when in favour of loose man (7) 16 Little Maureen's in the den, little devil (5) 17 Cow pat? (4) 18 Needle-case found in the Turleries (4) 19 A great stop-at sea (5) 21 Exotic fruit and vegetable starters under the table, we hear (7)



DOWN 2 Vessel once controlled by three big banks? (7) 24 Tin, there, in the gorge? (6) 27 Piece for sharpening stringed playing? (10) 28 University in which none are gated (4) 29 Ardan,

Only a lieutenant faces charges in soldier's death

EVELYN GORDON

ONLY a second lieutenant will face charges in the death of soldier Haim Bar-Natan in Lebanon in 1992, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

Bar-Natan was shot by a member of his own unit during a night operation after Sec.-Lt. Yehoshua Sadiel changed his group's route without informing his men.

When another member of the group later saw Bar-Natan in a place where, as far as he knew, no member of his unit was supposed to be, he assumed Bar-Natan was an enemy and shot him.

The army originally decided that no one was guilty of negligence in the affair. Bar-Natan's parents, Esther and Arye, appealed this decision to Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, who decided last year that Sadiel should be indicted for negligence.

The Bar-Natans then petitioned the High Court, asking that four other people be tried as well: then OC Northern Command Yitzhak Mordechai, Golan Brigade Commander Col. Y.N. "Roven" unit commander Lt. A.A., and the soldier who fired the fatal shots, Cpl. A.O.

The Bar-Natans argued that Sadiel's superiors were also guilty for having ordered the group out on that route in such weather; for allowing Sadiel to command a force when he was not properly trained - as witness his lack of knowledge of the open-fire orders; and for allowing A.O. to participate in the mission, which his commanders termed his "last chance before being thrown out of the unit," despite previous problems; and for planning an

ambush in a place from which it was difficult to get the wounded to medical help.

The state responded that Sadiel had been briefed on the open-fire orders just before his group set out; that A.O. had been judged fit to handle the group's mission by his superiors; and that the medical team had done everything possible to save Bar-Natan.

Justices Aharon Barak, Ya'akov Kedmi, and Dalia Dorner accepted the state's arguments.

"[Ben-Yair] examined all the facts," they wrote. "He considered the various factors, gave them their appropriate weight, and reached his conclusion... We are aware, as the attorney-general was, of the petitioners' pain... but this is not enough to justify our interference in a reasonable decision of the attorney-general."

Rejected woman pilot sues El Al for NIS 100,000

EVELYN GORDON

A WOMAN pilot yesterday filed suit against El Al for refusing to hire her, accusing the company of sexual discrimination.

The suit, filed in the Tel Aviv Labor Court by Orit Katzir, via the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), demanded NIS 100,000 in compensation.

Katzir, 30, has been a pilot for the past nine years, and is currently employed by the US airline American Eagle.

She also holds an Israeli commercial pilot's license, and has accumulated over 4,000 hours of flying time.

In September 1993, Katzir applied for El Al's pilot's training course. Successful completion of this course generally guarantees the student a pilot's job with the company.

However, her application was rejected, with no reason given.

Later, El Al managing director Rafi Harlev told Katzir the company only hires former air force pilots, and therefore would not even consider her application.

In its suit, ACRI argued that this is blatant sexual discrimination, since the air force refused to accept woman pilots until a few months ago, when the High Court of Justice ruled that this policy was discriminatory and illegal.

El Al cannot justify its discrimination on the grounds that the air force has illegally discriminated for decades, ACRI said.

Furthermore, it is clear that the company does not really consider air force experience essential because it has made exceptions in the past for male immigrant pilots who did not serve in the air force, ACRI continued.

This policy also violates a ruling by State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, ACRI added.

As a government company, it concluded, El Al has a special obligation to obey the anti-discrimination laws.

Haim Shapiro adds:

El Al spokesperson Osmat Lapidot said in response that irrespective of the issue of service as a pilot in the IAF, Katzir had not fulfilled the qualifications set by the company.

Tu Bishvat today

JUDY SIEGEL and LIAT COLLINS

THOSE who celebrate Tu Bishvat, the new year of trees, by eating a variety of fruits may go ahead today without concern for their health, according to the Health Ministry, which yesterday issued the results of tests on dried produce. Most favorite dried fruits are imported.

During 1995, a total of 226 shipments of dried fruits were imported. The ministry's Food Control Administration tested samples and found that only four percent (of 126 samples) had molds and aflatoxin (a fungus can be a carcinogen over the long term); none of 26 samples had illegal residues of pesticides; 18 of 241 had too-high levels of preservatives; none had artificial colors added; none failed the entomology test.

However, the Israel Consumer Council said last week that while most samples it examined were clean and suitable for eating, it found dates contaminated with insect excrement, which can be a serious health hazard.

Tu Bishvat will be marked today with tree plantings around the country.

Apart from the many official

Tu Bishvat ceremonies for schoolchildren, soldiers, and new immigrants, several sites are being created where the general public can stop and plant a tree. The three main points will be open between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. In the North: the Shomrim junction on the Tyon-Nahalal Road. In the Center: the carpark at the Porzim Memorial, opposite Sholeva on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. In the South: the Lahavim junction on the Beit Kama-Beersheba Road.

The Knesset, which celebrates its birthday on Tu Bishvat, will hold its own tree-planting ceremony for MKs and open a photo exhibition on the Jerusalem Corridor fire.

David Rudge adds: Scores of youngsters from the security zone in south Lebanon joined with children from Ma'atlot in a "Tu Bishvat" planting ceremony yesterday.

Meanwhile, as many as 50,000 people are expected to participate in tree planting ceremonies on the Golan today, in what organizers hope will be a massive show of solidarity with Jewish residents there.

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New Il Orde Airport: 07-342701
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WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy rise in temperatures.

Location	Low	High
Jerusalem	10	18
Tel Aviv	12	20
Haifa	14	22
Beersheba	16	24
Dead Sea	18	26

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High
Amsterdam	8	12
Bombay	24	30
Buenos Aires	12	18
Calcutta	26	32
Cairo	18	24
Chongqing	10	16
Delhi	20	26
Hong Kong	14	20
London	10	16
Los Angeles	12	18
Lyons	10	16
Manila	24	30
Moscow	8	12
New York	12	18
Paris	10	16
Shanghai	10	16
Singapore	24	30
Tokyo	10	16
Toronto	8	12
Warsaw	8	12
Zurich	8	12



Shoppers look over Tu Bishvat goodies in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

Ben-Yair: Meshulam wing enjoys special conditions

RAINE MARCUS

ALTHOUGH Uzi Meshulam and his followers enjoy privileged conditions in prison, there are no definite recommendations to change such conditions, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair wrote in a report on the issue to Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday.

In response to allegations that prison guards are kept out of Meshulam's wing, Prisons Service commissioner Arye Bibi said that electronic systems, such as closed-circuit TV, are sufficient to keep an eye on the group. As-

for a brand new washing machine and dryer installed in the wing, Bibi said there are 25 such machines in other wings nationwide. Meshulam, said Bibi, is entitled to be kept in a cell alone "because of his medical condition."

"There is no preferential treatment given to Meshulam compared with other inmates," said Bibi. The group, Ben-Yair wrote, does benefit from improved con-

ditions and privileges not given to other inmates. The report found that compared to three other wings, Meshulam's is the only one with European-style toilets. Other advantageous conditions found were doors which are kept unlocked. As in other "advanced prison wings," Meshulam and his followers are allowed to wear civilian clothing except when they are taken to court, when they must

wear prison uniform. "In view of their especially problematic behavior, there is no justification for these privileges," read the report. Police recently instructed Prisons Service authorities to disconnect the phone in Meshulam's wing, after he was found to be abusing the privilege. Ben-Yair said Meshulam should be allowed to phone his family once a day for three minutes, provided he did not use the phone to issue instructions or to pass on "inciting messages" to followers outside.

Last of warned GSS officers defends himself in hearing today

BILL HUTMAN

THE last of the seven General Security Service and police officers that were warned by the Shagar Commission they may be found responsible for the failings that led to prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination is today to begin presenting his defense today.

Like the other six, H., a senior GSS officer responsible for handling intelligence information on extremists, received a warning letter from the commission in December. Yesterday's hearing, at which Yarkon District commander Asst.-Cmdr. Ya'acov Shoval finished up his defense, was reportedly very heated. Shoval, the

only police officer warned by the commission, was grilled by the lawyers for the six GSS officers.

Shoval maintained that it is the GSS's duty to protect the prime minister, and it was failures by the service and not by the police that allowed the assassination to take place. The lawyers for the GSS officers, however, tried to pin the blame on police.

One source described the exchanges as "sharp." But he added their importance should not be exaggerated, as the commission, by issuing warning letters to six GSS officers and only one police officer, has already indicated it puts most of the blame on the GSS.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, ace of hearts, eight of diamonds, and eight of clubs.

Hundreds join in protest for Ouman workers

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HUNDREDS of labor council activists and union members from all over the country demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem yesterday, to protest against the closure of the Ouman Knitting Mills in Ofakim and the city's unemployment.

The Histadrut, which organized the demonstration, had hoped for a larger turnout. Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz, who spoke at the demonstration, demanded the establishment of a joint government-Histadrut committee that would identify companies and plants on the verge of collapse.

Peretz blasted the government for readily "bending laws and regulations when tycoons and employers come to it for financial help, and for helping them generously to create more work places, but as soon as these places stop making a profit - even temporarily - the government and tycoons abandon the battlefield and the workers, who are thrown out of their jobs."

The negotiations between Polgat, which owns Ouman, and the Histadrut over severance fees for Ouman's workers broke down shortly after resuming on Saturday night, when Polgat rejected the Histadrut's compromise proposal. Polgat charged the Histadrut with planning to sabotage the negotiations to justify yesterday's demonstration and "to make political capital."

The Histadrut announced that if the talks broke down on Saturday night, it would resume production in the Ouman plant, which it had stopped last week on the advice of the Beersheba Labor Court. Last night, however, both sides agreed to resume negotiations.

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- * Rabbi Shlomo Hachanan Kook, Chief Rabbi of Rehovot, 4 David Shimoni, P.O.B. 1047, Rehovot.
- * Prof. Elyavim Zev'v Fraenkel, The Hebrew University, Physics Dept., 5 Hapigea, Jerusalem.
- * Prof. Zev'v Low, The Hebrew University, Physics Dept., 5 Hapigea, Jerusalem.

* I also support this appeal - Prof. Yehuda Levy

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Inquiries to Rabbani Levin, Tel. 02-387783.

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